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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JANUARY 2, 1950

## Naval stores award

ON NOVEMBER 18, Director of Personnel T. Roy Reid presented a Superior Service Award for outstanding naval stores research to scientists who carried on the investigations leading to the development of improved gun-cleaning and steam-distillation processes. This was done as part of the ceremonies during the Pine Festival at Macclenny, Fla. The methods are now used in the production of 90 percent of the Nation's gum turpentine and gum rosin. The award recognized discoveries which have practically revolutionized the naval stores industry during the past 15 years, have saved processors an estimated 4 million dollars a year, and provided farmers a better market for pine tree gum.

Included in the group honored were Carl Speh, assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry; Col. E. L. Patton, who heads the Naval Stores Research Division in New Orleans; G. P. Shingler, historian and former head of the Olustee Naval Stores Station, Olustee, Fla.; and N. C. McConnell, naval stores technologist, at Olustee. Three former employees of the Naval Stores Research Division were also honored: R. A. Feagan, Jr., J. O. Reed, and W. C. Smith. As a result of this research, naval stores production is now centralized in 28 modern plants which offer a profitable market for crude gum to some 40,000 farmers, whereas at one time as many as 2,500 fire stills handled the crop. At that time, only a few farmers found it profitable to own and chip their own pine stands.

## Foreign trade policy committee

A Foreign Trade Policy Advisory Committee has been formed to advise USDA on foreign agricultural trade and policies. For more detail about, and the membership of this committee, which holds its organization meeting in Washington, D. C., January 5-6, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2526.

## Dr. Merrill retired

MELVIN C. MERRILL, Ph. D., chief of the Division of Publications, Office of Information, and as such widely known throughout the Department, has retired after a quarter of a century's service. A native of Utah, he graduated from Utah Agricultural College and later took advanced work at Cornell, University of Chicago (M. S.), Harvard (A. M.), and Washington University, St. Louis, (Ph. D.). He taught high school and also served as Superintendent of the Baguio Experiment Station, P. I., and as an assistant in the Missouri Botanical Garden at intervals during his education.

In 1915 he became director of the agricultural department in Idaho Technical Institute; in 1917, professor of horticulture at Utah College; in 1922, dean and horticulturist at Brigham Young. He entered USDA in 1924 as director of forestry publications for Forest Service and took the position from which he retired in 1925. Indefatigably industrious, he took part in social, educational, and public service activities of all sorts. For 18 years he headed an editorial course in the USDA Graduate School, while he served two terms as president of OPEDA. His extracurricular devotions included dancing, cards, birds, plants, hiking, and the Church of the Latter-Day Saints.

Into Publications he brought a new broom and swept down to the solid foundations of editing and publishing. Gradually and with unsparing labor he rebuilt, working out the minutest details of editing and distribution. He gave USDA publication policy direction and system. Scholarship became a creed. Few of our publications were found wanting in scientific verity and good form during his term. The patterns of USDA bulletins assumed the aspect of a world-wide standard for agricultural publications.

## Government publications

THE VARIOUS AGENCIES of Government in the U. S.—municipal, State, Federal, and international—are highly important sources of authoritative published material. This material is both informative and readable. If properly catalogued, distributed, and filed, the publications make available to the public knowledge of great practical value based largely upon precise scientific investigation. This knowledge is objectively arrived at, unprejudiced, and reliable. Whatever you may have heard or may hear to the contrary, these are the facts as brought out by James L. McCamy, in his 1949 Report of the Public Library Inquiry, entitled "Government Publications for the Citizen." McCamy at one time worked for the Department of Agriculture, he is now professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin, and his book is priced at \$2.50.

The book covers the character of Government publications, their distribution and their use by libraries, and it formulates a way in which libraries and the Government can cooperate to give the publications still wider usefulness. The book opens with this sentence: "Government is a great source of reliable information and significant discussion for citizens." Whether printed or processed, and regardless of its appearance, this information should be filed and utilized by libraries and by citizens, and many of the most important things issued by Government never are formally printed. "The style of these Government publications, which has traditionally been considered a formidable handicap, is usually appropriate to the subject matter." Many of the books are easy to read, eye-appeal altogether aside.

The largest category of these publications concerns legal actions, the next largest is economic analysis and reporting, the next technical or scientific analysis and reporting; then come aviation, invitations to bid for Government contracts and specifications for objects of contract, and management. Says McCamy: "The problem which governmental agencies have failed to solve, therefore, is so to organize their growing literature that it can best serve the public which pays for its production. Its value would seem to be obvious, but the method of handling the material tends to obscure that value." For more information, study this concise, information-packed little book of 139 pages.



## O. E. Baker

OLIVER EDWIN BAKER died suddenly December 2 at his home in College Park, Md., aged 66. A native of Ohio he graduated from Heidelberg Academy in that State, took an A. M. at Columbia and his Ph. D. at University of Wisconsin. He also attended Yale Forestry School 1907-8, and he was awarded an honorary doctor of science by Göttingen in 1937. After a brief service at Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. Baker entered old BPI in 1912 in the field of marketing. He became agricultural economist with the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics March 1, 1920, which became part of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 1922. In 1942 Dr. Baker became an agent working cooperatively with the University of Maryland and, in 1943, he became professor of agricultural economics at the University, resigning as senior agricultural economist in BAE.

Dr. Baker's field was land utilization, the economic geography of agriculture, the agricultural resources of the U. S. and foreign countries, and population changes and other factors affecting world agricultural production. He was an author and the editor of the *Atlas of American Agriculture* and, in 1939, was coauthor with Ralph Bordsodi and M. L. Wilson of the book, "Agriculture in Modern Life." His contribution to the latter epitomized his philosophy. He also prepared numerous papers in his field of research for technical and semipopular publications. He was a vivid, forceful personality and will be greatly missed. At the time of his death he headed the department of geography in the College of Business and Public Administration, University of Maryland.

## War on weeds

A WEED IS a plant out of place, but insofar as it interferes with crop production the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering is now after it and means business. A new division for weed investigations has been established by this bureau headed by Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn, a well-trained and experienced plant physiologist. He is a native of Alabama who obtained his scientific training at Alabama Polytechnic Institute and the Universities of Missouri and Wisconsin. Since 1936 he has been on the agronomy staff of North Carolina State and, since 1944, has been responsible for supervision and direction of cooperative pasture-management in-

vestigations carried on by USDA with the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. All weed research in PISAE, regardless of the crop involved and including work on machinery for weed control, will be coordinated by the Weed Division.

The cost of weed control is a major item in the total cost of crop production on most farms. While chemicals are great aids in weed control, other measures also should be used and, if the job is done right, chemicals may not be required. Many opportunities also exist to save crop-plan seed without admixtures of weed seed, for separating the two if mixed, for destroying the viability of weed seed in mixed feeds, and for more intensive work in the field of engineering. Much of the farmers' brush problem remains unsolved too. Finally, fundamental research and applied studies in the field of weed investigations are out of balance. Establishment of the new division should help greatly in the solution of these and other problems.

## Big splash

IF ALL THE WATER in a 2-inch rain were dumped on a field at once, it could lift a 7-inch layer of soil 3 feet into the air. Big splash! But a rainfall of 1 inch in 15 minutes is generally regarded as extremely heavy and destructive and can cause serious enough erosion. The heaviest of rains when falling on a bare and highly detachable soil may splash up 100 tons of soil per acre. Finding out ways to prevent that is one of the jobs of Soil Conservation Service.

Splash erosion has only recently attracted the attention it deserved. Now scientists and farmers both realize that raindrop splashing which detaches particles from the main body of the soil is a primary factor in producing erosion. Only after the soil is detached can it float away toward the river and the sea. An unprotected sloping field will lose a large quantity of splashed soil over the years, even if surface flow is checked by terraces and other conservation devices.

As J. H. Stallings of SCS puts it, control of erosion caused by falling raindrops can be achieved only by dissipating the energy they contain before they hit the ground. Plant cover, living or dead, acts as a cushion and breaks the impact of the falling drops. Grass, pasture, mulches, or the remains of previous crops on the surface all help to prevent small splashes from gradually doing the damage the big splash could do all at once.

## A drop?

AS THE LATE Gertrude Stein did not write: A drop is *not* a drop is *not* a drop. It depends. Scientists measure small objects in microns of which an inch contains 25,000 and a meter a million. Thus, measured, a drop of sea fog is 5 microns in diameter, cloud drops are 33, mist drops 100, drizzle drops 200, and light raindrops 500 microns in diameter. The last is one-fiftieth of an inch. But a light raindrop of 500 microns has not 5 but 125 times the volume of a mist drop 100 microns in diameter, and it has 8,000 times the volume of a drop of sea fog! Now we're getting somewhere—if you're still following through the fog.

The size of the particles that emerge from the end of a spray nozzle has a great effect on the spread of insecticides over surfaces sprayed. A gallon of spray provides only 9 drops per square inch if each drop is 500 microns in diameter, whereas a misty spray of 100-micron drops will deposit 1,164 to the square inch. However, if the drops are only 5 microns in diameter, the gallon of spray will provide more than 9 million particles to each square inch of ground sprayed.

Again, in still air a 5-micron drop of water falls 10 feet in 66 minutes, a 100-micron drop does that in 10 seconds, and a 500-micron drop in about 1½ seconds. But in a slight 3-mile-per-hour breeze a 5-micron drop drifts more than 3 miles in falling 10 feet while a 500-micron drop would settle 10 feet with a drift of only 7 feet. Hence when spraying, both the droplet size and the wind drift must be considered and controlled. Precise regulation of spraying equipment used with the new high-power insecticides is extremely important. Entomologists have to work with both engineers and plane pilots to get just the right equipment combinations. This bug-killing business is getting to be very precise and very scientific, and it takes bug engineers to do the job properly.

### CAN YOU FIND IT?

Can you find things you have filed away when you go to look for them again (and who can?) or do you merely turn up something else you were looking for 8 weeks ago? If this is your trouble, write for a cure to the Office of Plant and Operations, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Ask for O. P. O. No. 9, "Records Management—How To File and Find Correspondence Records." It is written so simply that even the authors claim to understand it! (Actually it is a fine, useful publication, no kidding. Editor of *USDA*.)



# Brief but important

## Winter sports in the forests

For details about the anticipated use of winter sports areas in our National Forests this season, write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2511.

## Prevent woodwork rot

We have a brief account by Arthur F. Ver-rall, forest pathologist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, which gives good advice on how to prevent rot of the outside woodwork used in buildings. If you want a copy, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2503.

## Agricultural planning at war

Your attention is called to a new book by Bela Gold, associate professor of economics, University of Pittsburgh, entitled "Wartime Economic Planning in Agriculture." It is a study in the allocation of resources from Columbia University Press, New York City 27, priced at \$6.75. It constitutes a detailed analysis of national economic planning in action with special emphasis on one of the most systematic attempts at governmental planning in American history.

## T. A. H. Miller

Thomas A. Huntington Miller, retired USDA structures engineer, died recently in Charlottesville, Va. Born in North Carolina in 1885, he was educated at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, worked in the Naval Academy, then entered the Bureau of Public Roads, USDA, in 1917. He was one of the designers for buildings at old Arlington Farm and at the Beltsville, Md., Agricultural Research Center. He was widely known for his work on farm structures, and his highly practical publications were extensively used. He retired in 1945 because of ill health after 37 years of service.

## Pictures on the wall

Have you noticed the interesting photographs in the lunchroom (6962-S), where the Department organizations have their luncheon meetings? If not, we suggest you take a closer look at them the next time you are up that way. In December the Agricultural Research Administration began a series of exhibits depicting various phases of their research. The December exhibit illustrated the over-all ARA approach to research in soils, crops, livestock, marketing, industrial uses of agricultural products, and better living. A new set of photographs depicting a different phase of research will be installed each month. Do you field people ever use pictures of our work in this manner?

## Le Duc retires

P. W. Le Duc, whose researches in the Bureau of Animal Industry have been devoted to the control of cattle diseases, has retired after 41 years of service, all of it performed on the third floor, East Wing, Administration Building. Believe it or not, one man in Government service worked out his entire career on one floor of one building! Before entering USDA or taking his degree at George Washington University, Mr. Le Duc helped construct the East Wing too! He is a nephew of the distinguished William G. Le Duc, who was Commissioner of Agriculture 1877-81, by appointment of President Hayes, and who recommended to Congress the establishment of a Division of Veterinary Science, which later became the BAI. Mr. Le Duc's avocation has been golf these many years. He now intends to transform it into a vocation.

## New publications

"How to use whole and nonfat DRY MILK" is the title of a new booklet prepared by Mary T. Wickard, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; ask for No. AIS-86. \* \* \* New Miscellaneous Publication No. 705 is "A Graphic Summary of World Agriculture," by Reginald G. Hainsworth, an economic geographer in Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. We explained in *USDA* for October 10, 1949, how to get printed publications.

## No rouge for cauliflower

That pale snow-white color the best cauliflower face presents to eager housewives is difficult to produce. To insure it, the flower head must be shielded from the sun. In some varieties the outer green leaves obligingly curl round and protect the curd, but the farmer must tie up the leaves of the Snowball type to keep the inner curd in deep shade. Good seed, good fairly heavy soil of high water-holding capacity, and a very special kind of climate, cool and humid, are also required to make a success of this fastidious plant with its delicate flower head so appealing to humans.

## Honors

Dr. S. L. Emsweller of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering has succeeded Dr. George M. Darrow of the same agency as president of the American Society for Horticultural Science. \* \* \* Drs. Glenn W. Burton and L. A. Richards of PISAE, stationed in Tifton, Ga., and Riverside, Calif., respectively, received Stevenson citations and awards of \$500 each in recognition of their outstanding research, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Agronomy last October. \* \* \* Dr. Charles A. Bennett, at PISAE's Cotton Ginning Laboratory, Stoneville, Miss., was selected for special recognition and given an award by the Texas Cotton Growers' Association last September.

## Foot-and-mouth motion picture

Bureau of Animal Industry and Motion Picture Service have released a new 30-minute color film on foot-and-mouth disease called "Outbreak." It traces the history of the disease from earliest times and documents the 1929 outbreak in California and its eradication. It also covers the present day with sequences taken in Mexico showing how that Nation and the U. S. are co-operatively stamping out the disease in Mexico and preventing it from crossing the border. "Outbreak" is a dramatic, factual film that took 6 months to make, written by Sidney J. Abels and directed by Irving Rusinow of MPS from subject matter developed by BAI specialists under the direction of Dr. B. T. Simms. Prints have been placed in the cooperating film libraries throughout the country.

## Cliff succeeds Spencer

Edward P. Cliff of Ogden, Utah, has been named regional forester for the Rocky Mountain Region, Forest Service, succeeding John W. Spencer who retired December 31. Mr. Cliff graduated from the State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah, and entered FS on Wenatchee National Forest, Wash. He was in charge of wildlife management on 20 National Forests in Washington and Oregon, 1934-39, and for the next 5 years was supervisor of Siskiyou and Fremont National Forests, Oreg., and was stationed in Washington, D. C., from 1944 until 1946. He then became assistant regional forester at Ogden. Mr. Spencer is a native of Kansas with a master's from Yale, who went to Denver in 1925 as assistant regional forester and who became regional forester, Rocky Mountain Region, in December 1943. He is well known by thousands of conservationists in that region.

## Eric Englund here

Not long ago Dr. Eric Englund, formerly of the Office of Experiment Stations and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and now agricultural attaché to both Finland and Sweden, was in Washington after several months in the former country. He reported that Finland had made a remarkable agricultural recovery despite heavy war losses, much of which he attributed to fine coordination between agricultural research and farmers' cooperative groups.

## United Nations Week

National Bible Week, United Nations Week, and a rare exhibit of ancient Bibles at the Library of Congress coincided recently. In recognition of these celebrations the scroll of the Book of Isaiah, 2,000 years old and found in 1947 in a cave near Jericho, was appropriately opened to the passage: "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

## Nobody fooled 'em

Those flowers that bloom in the fall, tra-la—like apple blossoms or other spring harbingers, were not fooled by mild weather into supposing spring had come. Our experts say that out-of-season bloom usually indicates a plant or tree has gone through hard times. It flowers to survive or perpetuate its line. A tree may suffer from drought during the fall and lose its leaves, so it puts out new leaves and blooms to avoid extinction. Fire, disease, insects, or other damage that defoliate a tree may bring on unseasonal bloom.

## Save that lard!

Hydrogenation is a process that converts fluid vegetable oils like cottonseed, peanut, or soybean, into white fat resembling lard and useful for shortening and frying. Addition of hydrogen changes the oils chemically and stabilizes them without destroying the natural antioxidants present, hence the oxygen of the air cannot make the fat rancid. If 2 or 3 pounds of one of the hydrogenated vegetable oils are added to each 50 pounds of lard it can be protected from rancidity for a much longer period because they supply a harmless substance on which the oxygen prefers to act rather than on the animal fat in the lard.

## Chemistry promotions

Dr. Walter M. Scott, formerly director of the bureau's Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans, and Dr. John R. Matchett, technical advisor to the bureau chief, have been appointed assistant chiefs of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. Dr. Charles H. Fisher succeeds Dr. Scott. Dr. Scott is a native of Connecticut who took his degrees at Yale; he has directed the SRRL since December 1945. Dr. Matchett is a native of Indiana and a graduate of Earlham College, with advanced degrees from Purdue and University of Chicago; he headed food research at the Western Regional Research Laboratory, Albany, Calif., from 1941 until September 1, 1949. Dr. Fisher is a native of West Virginia and a graduate of Roanoke College, with advanced degrees from University of Illinois; he has headed the Carbohydrate Division of the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Wyndmoor, Pa., since December 1946. Carl F. Speh and Dr. George W. Irving, Jr., continue as assistant chiefs of AIC for research; Henry A. Donovan is assistant chief for administration. Dr. G. E. Hilbert is chief of AIC.



## Bjorka passes

Knute Bjorka, livestock marketing research specialist of Bureau of Agricultural Economics and coauthor of a widely used college text, "Livestock Marketing," died November 18, aged 61. A graduate of the University of Minnesota who did postgraduate work at University of Chicago, he was once on the faculty of Iowa State and came to Washington in 1929 as a fellow at Brookings Institution.

## Integrated agricultural research

We have copies of remarks made at the Secretary's Staff Meeting, October 13 last, by Agricultural Research Administrator P. V. Cardon; Chief R. M. Salter of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering; Assistant Chief S. E. Johnson of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; and Director of Extension M. L. Wilson. The subject being discussed was "Integrated Agricultural Research and Its Implications for American Agriculture." It should prove of interest and value to many of you. If you want a copy, *write* the editor of *USDA* and request it.

## H. S. Carpenter, deceased

Herbert S. Carpenter, aged 50, died November 18, after many months of ill health. He was chief of the communications and records management section of the Farmers Home Administration, and an expert in the field of archives. A native of New Rochelle, N. Y., he served in the U. S. Army in 1918, and received his B. S. in economics in 1922 at the University of New Hampshire. Mr. Carpenter had been in Government service for 14 years, serving in the field as well as in Washington. He will be sadly missed by all who knew and not only those who worked with him.

## Herl succeeds Skidmore

Dr. Oren E. Herl, a native of Ohio and a graduate of the Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, who became assistant to Dr. D. I. Skidmore in 1948, has been appointed to succeed him as head of the Division of Virus-Serum Control, Bureau of Animal Industry. Dr. Skidmore retired September 30. Dr. Herl has been in BAI since August 1916, serving first as a meat inspector at Fort Worth and entering the virus-control field in Kansas City in 1917. His headquarters was in Columbus, Ohio, 1935-39, and he transferred to Washington the latter year. He will direct BAI work on licensing and distributing biological products intended for use in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases in domestic animals.

## Yearbook contributions

You are invited to submit interesting sidelights of agricultural research for publication in the next Yearbook of Agriculture to fill parts of pages that would otherwise be left blank, and to add spice as well as information to the more formal material in the book. The Yearbook's objective is to inform Americans about the utilization of farm products and new uses for surplus and waste agricultural materials. Hence anecdotes about the discovery of processes or products, personal experiences in scientific work, odd facts on the use of a common commodity, little-known historical items regarding major developments, the wide varieties of use or little-known uses to which specific farm products are put, quotations, epigrams, unusual requests, material on discoveries which cost dollars and saved millions, and so on, would be acceptable. After getting bureau clearance on your contribution—500 words or less is the proper length—send it to Alfred Stefferud, Office of Information, no later than April 3, 1950.

## REA progress

If interested in progress under the Research and Marketing Act, there is available a talk by Assistant Administrator Omer W. Herrmann of ARA, dealing with the subject. It was delivered December 12. To get a copy, *write* Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2597.

## REA Consumer No. 3,000,000

At some undermined spot in the U. S. during the week of November 28-December 2, the three-millionth rural consumer began receiving electric service through REA-financed facilities. If you'd like REA's summary of accomplishments from its creation in 1935 to November 25, 1949, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2523.

## Rural health

We have a statement by Elin L. Anderson of Extension Service, who knows the subject thoroughly, entitled "Public Policy on Health Affecting Rural People." It is a paper she delivered in Pullman, Wash., in July and in Kansas City, Mo., in October 1949. But if you didn't hear it and want a résumé of various health bills before Congress, insofar as they relate to rural areas, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for a copy.

## FAO meeting

As you know, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations held its fifth conference in Washington November 21 through December 6. There were delegates from 63 countries. If you want a handy brief digest of what went on, we have it. To get a copy *write*, *please do not phone or come in person*, the editor of *USDA* (see last-page masthead) and ask for the "Digest of FAO Conference Events and Proceedings."

## Truck weight regulations

Bureau of Agricultural Economics has made a study and published a report on "Recent Trends in Truck Weight Limitations." The report, which appears in BAE's "Marketing and Transportation Situation" for November, surveys recent trends in weight and load limits for trucks in the different States, and indicates improvements and changes within regions and across country. The study was financed with Research and Marketing Act funds.

## New cotton ginning lab

The U. S. Cotton Ginning Branch Laboratory at Las Cruces, N. Mex., on the campus of New Mexico A. & M., financed under the Research and Marketing Act, was dedicated December 17. It is a subsidiary of the U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory at Stoneville, Miss., but will concern itself with problems met in cleaning and ginning cotton grown under arid conditions. If you are interested in more detail about it and the biographies of its director, Charles A. Bennett, and his staff at both Las Cruces and Stoneville, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2568.

## Corn borer—electric insect traps

The European corn borer has become one of the most important single agricultural insect species in the Nation today. Total losses of corn caused by it in 1949 may exceed 250 million bushels. While the borer, and other night-flying moths, can be attracted to a special type of electric lamp and killed with electric traps, farmers must not yet become too enthusiastic about this possible control method; further research is necessary to prove its practicability. If you would like more detailed information on the corn borer and the use of electric insect traps, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for Nos. 2534 and 2537.

## Dr. Arner, retired

Dr. George B. Arner, for many years one of our leading economists, retired yesterday. Dr. Arner has been best known in recent years as head of the United Kingdom and Dominions Division in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, and as a specialist in international trade agreements. He has represented USDA for the past 12 years on the Interdepartmental Trade Agreements Committee, and in 1947 spent 7 months as adviser to the U. S. delegation at the negotiation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade at Geneva, Switzerland. His service with USDA covered 1922-27, and 1939-49. Before entering Government service he taught at Princeton and Dartmouth. He is a native of Jefferson, Ohio, and obtained his Ph. D. in sociology from Columbia in 1908.

## Callander retires from BAE

William F. Callander, Canadian-born of Scottish parents, who became an American citizen in 1903, has retired as assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in charge of statistics, and chairman of the Crop Reporting Board, to become visiting lecturer in applied statistics at the College of Agriculture, University of Florida. After preliminary courses at Columbian (now George Washington), Mr. Callander took his LL. B. at Georgetown. He became private secretary to Dr. B. T. Galloway, chief of BPI, in 1904 and, in 1913, secretary to Secretary Houston. In 1916 he became agricultural statistician for Wisconsin, in 1920 for Ohio, and during 1922-34 and 1937-42 was chief of the Division of Agricultural Statistics and chairman of the Crop Reporting Board. Between 1935 and 1945 he also held important positions in AAA and the Bureau of the Census, returning to the position from which he retired in 1946. He has lectured widely at colleges and universities and has published many articles and papers.

## Father of the soybean retires

William J. Morse, known world-wide for his work on soybean development, and often called the "father of the soybean," has retired after 42 years of service. A native New Yorker, he graduated from Cornell and entered old BPI in 1907 just as it began research on growing this legume. After 22 years of research he spent 2 years exploring Japan, China, Korea, and Manchuria for better varieties and culture methods. He returned with hundreds of soybean varieties. His work was a big factor in transforming the U. S. soybean from a curiosity into an important food, feed, and industrial crop by improving varieties and finding those suitable for growth in specific localities. The U. S. crop has increased during his career from a few thousand to 200 million bushels annually. Mr. Morse won a Superior Service Award in 1947. The same year the American Soybean Association, of which he was president three times, made him an honorary life member. He is a most able, efficient, productive, painstaking, and industrious worker. His book on "The Soybean," published in 1923, is still the bible on this subject. Now he will write a book on soybeans as food.

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JANUARY 16, 1950

## REA's record

AS USUAL the Rural Electrification Administration chalked up records in 1949. Its borrowers connected more new consumers than in any earlier year and the farmers used more power per farm than ever before. During the year 525,000 farms, rural churches, schools, stores, and country homes hooked up to the high-lines operated by REA borrowers. With so many new consumers added, the average use of power per farm might be expected to stay at a low level, at least until the new folks get additional appliances and learn more about making electricity work for them. Actually the old-timers are expanding their power consumption so fast the average consumption has been pushed up and up continuously since the REA program began. In 1935 about 10 percent of our farms had electric service; now 80 percent have it and of this increase almost 60 percent is on REA-financed lines. The average power used on REA-financed lines was 61 kilowatt-hours per farm in December 1941 and 131 in December 1948, the last month for which figures are available.

Rural power is no longer a side line. It is a legitimate big business itself. Power demanded now by farmers, plus future potentialities, is straining existing wholesale suppliers to capacity and beyond in some cases. REA borrowers as a result are forced to turn more and more to building their own generating plants. When farmers get power they gear their work and their living to electricity and if the power goes off or is inadequate they are perhaps even in a worse predicament than urbanites because the cows, for example, can't wait to be milked and the little chicks kept warm by electricity will be lost if power fails at the critical time. So farmers have to have dependable service and plenty of it. That is the current rural electrification job.

## Promotions

S. R. NEWELL, deputy assistant administrator for marketing, Production and Marketing Administration, has become chairman of the Crop Reporting Board and assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. He will have charge of all BAE's crop and livestock estimating work including the 41 State statistician's offices. He succeeds W. F. Callander, retired. He served in BAE on crop reporting and agricultural estimates as early as 1926, and became assistant chief of its Marketing Research Division in 1934. He went with the work into the Agricultural Marketing Service in 1940 until it returned to BAE in 1942. Newell is a native of Falls Church, Va., and a graduate in agriculture of the University of Maryland.

Roy W. Lennartson has succeeded Newell as deputy assistant administrator of PMA in charge of marketing service and regulatory activities. He has been assistant director of the Poultry Branch since 1946, is a native of Minnesota, and has served USDA since 1936, when he joined Farm Credit Administration's staff. He was with the armed forces as a procurement officer 1942-45. He studied at the University of Minnesota and took his B. A. and M. A. at the University of Maryland.

Mr. Lennartson, in turn, has been succeeded by Hermon I. Miller as assistant director of PMA's poultry branch. Mr. Miller has been connected with USDA for 16 years, is a native of Nebraska, took his B. S. and M. A. at the University of Nebraska, and then did advanced work in agricultural economics and marketing at Cornell. He was economist with the Nebraska Extension Service from 1933 until 1942 when he became extension specialist in dairy and poultry marketing stationed in Washington, D. C. He was appointed head of the Programs Division, Poultry Branch, PMA, in 1946.

## World farm problems

DELEGATES from 58 foreign countries converged on Washington late in November and spent 2½ weeks thrashing out some problems of farmers and the food supply the world over. They represented the member nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations. During the meeting they took in 5 new members, Indonesia, Israel, Korea, Afghanistan, and Sweden, bringing the total nations belonging to 63.

All the meetings, the documents, and the reports, were in both French and English. This did not help the large group of Spanish-speaking countries. So Spanish was adopted as a working language for the next conference to be held in April 1951. Following through on some of these sessions, the language difficulty in international understanding becomes evident. Just what is meant when certain words are used? What is meant by a cooperative? After considerable talk, the French delegate says, that is what we call a syndicate. Babel in FAO!

What the experts called disequilibrium in the currency and foreign trade fields worried these gentlemen who found this situation interfering with the movement of foodstuffs from surplus nations to deficiency nations. Hunger and burdensome surpluses seemed just around the corner. They approached the matter on two fronts, a stepped-up program of technical assistance to underdeveloped countries and a committee on surplus problems to act as a clearing house of information and a stimulator for commodity agreements between nations. They decided to move their headquarters to Rome from Washington. The Director General is former Under Secretary of Agriculture and AAA committeeman from Oregon, Ed Dodd, who is doing a fine round-up job on this important and functioning international organization. A 4-page summary of the conference is available on request and was offered you in *USDA* for January 2.

### Being one of the bunch

We do not mean bananas. At the moment we are intrigued by a processed item prepared by D. M. Hall of the Cooperative Extension Service, Urbana, Ill., entitled "What? Why? How? We Share in Group Action." We all form part of groups and group action is a commonplace of our democratic society. This mimeograph tells a great many practical things about successfully getting along together in groups and regarding the type of individuals who make group action possible and also those who make it all but impossible. If interested write Prof. Hall for a copy.



## Field notes

A FIELD TRIP rather humbles a member of the Washington, D. C., bureaucracy. These remarks are the result of one the editor made recently in South Carolina. It is one thing to sit comfortably at your desk in a well-lighted pleasantly decorated office, with such assistance and equipment as you need to do an efficient job. It is quite another to lack many of the conveniences, even the necessities, as we regard them in Washington, and to meet the public and the farmers face to face, seeking to solve their problems and properly represent the great Department of which you are an isolated staff member. All praise to the field employees for the way they do this.

Just what would you do if your whole State had been declared a disaster area because insects that survived a mild winter knocked agriculture for a loop and you had the corridor lined with farmers wanting to apply for disaster loans? Nearly all Farmers Home Administration offices in South Carolina were coping with that situation. But, so far, requests about rural housing loans are few and easily handled.

Suppose you were called upon to explain to an irate farmer why his cotton allotment had been cut? Could you do a good job of it while 20 more irate farmers waited their turn to get at you? County agents and Production and Marketing Administration administrative officers, especially the latter, were meeting that one daily, complicated by preparations for the big referendum on cotton quotas held December 15. You have to keep cool and have your facts in your head. No wonder so many PMA administrative officers looked beaten down and fatigued! And did you know that such officers often drive an average of 500 miles monthly in their own counties in their own cars and get no mileage, though that is all for official business?

Furthermore, you might have to transact business in crowded quarters, dingily painted, poorly lighted, and often inconveniently arranged. Many times you'd have to walk long distances to see your aids or answer a phone call—there are usually too few phones. Meeting space is at a premium, auditoriums in most of the county agricultural centers visited usually being used for offices. Heating is often inadequate and lighting sometimes so poor as to involve eyestrain. As to crowding—we found 7 SCS men in 1 room measuring 15 by 15 feet, allowing only 30 square feet per man

and desk—and in most county buildings county and State agencies are always clamoring for more room and menacing space used by Federal agencies. Finally maintenance is frequently inadequate; floors often dirty, windows sometimes scarcely translucent. How would you like that? Could you work under conditions that seem to put a premium on inefficiency? Field employees get by nobly.

The most common field need in owned or rented quarters is probably better building and maintenance which includes not only cleaning and repainting—especially in lighter tones that reflect rather than absorb light—but modern fluorescent or other lighting systems, sound-absorbent ceilings, asphalt tile flooring, and some effort properly to mark and beautify the exterior of buildings used as homes for agricultural agencies. Central information desks and telephone switchboards would help too, but this may not always be possible because many other agencies than agriculture are in occupancy in most buildings.

Certainly something should be done to make the listings of our agencies in local telephone directories more quickly and fully informative. Highway markers pointing to agricultural buildings would be of assistance in large towns. Many buildings themselves could be better identified and a bulletin board inside the front door listing the names and locations of all agencies housed and of the principals of each would be a great convenience. Visitors now flounder around; there is entirely too much hunting for buildings, agencies, and individuals. Yet, despite all, our field force carries on industriously, efficiently, and intelligently. More power to 'em.

### Vacuum precooling

USDA plant scientists have found that vacuum cooling offers an extremely promising method for conditioning certain vegetables for shipment. The method requires a special sealed vacuum chamber making practical use of the temperature drop when water is evaporated rapidly. In experimental equipment it took lettuce—some of which was packed in nonperforated cellophane—22 minutes to cool from an initial 70° F. to 33° F., and 17 minutes to establish the vacuum which was held for 5 minutes.

### New snap bean

USDA's Regional Vegetable Breeding Laboratory, Charleston, S. C., working in cooperation with the Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations, has developed Contender, a new snap bean, low in fiber and with excellent marketing possibilities. The new variety has been tested for the past 3 years in 9 southern States. It is resistant to common bean mosaic and relatively resistant to powdery mildew. It develops good pods which are heavy, thick, stringless, and low in fiber content.

## We'll miss Syd

SYDNEY D. FRISSELL, chief publications editor for Soil Conservation Service, retired January 1. A host of people around the Department are going to miss Syd. His reputation is of the kind called enviable—he is well known and loved as an editor who always has done his job with distinction and true courtesy no matter what the difficulties. His has been the responsibility of blazing a trail for publications, both technical and popular, on one of the newest of agricultural sciences—soil and water conservation. Mr. Frissell has been with SCS since that agency was established as such in the Department in 1935. Before that, he was in charge of editorial work for the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, where he edited and saw through the mill such important publications as Soil Surveys and the Soil Section of the Atlas of American Agriculture.

A Yale man (class of 1908), Mr. Frissell did postgraduate work with the Pulitzer School of Journalism of Columbia University, with the University of North Carolina in economics, and in the USDA Graduate School where he had soils under Marbut and chemistry under Byers. World War I claimed him from 1916-19. He served on three fronts in France as a first lieutenant, following Mexican border service. His knowledge of farming has been more than academic. On graduating from college he took over an abandoned Virginia farm and for 38 years dealt with the problems of dairying and tobacco growing, which he admits proved helpful "both to the knowledge and meager income of an agricultural scribe."

But it was as field secretary for Hampton Institute and director of information for the Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association, Raleigh, N. C., that he began his career as editor and writer. He produced many articles for newspapers, magazines, and trade journals and edited the Tri-State Tobacco Grower, official monthly publication for 90,000 tobacco producers. Syd says he probably will do some more writing now that he's retired, but no editing. And there'll be some traveling, and some gardening, and an occasional period of just doing nothing that isn't wholly restful.

### Diversification

If you would like a digest of useful facts about crop diversification in the South you could not do better than read the talk by Assistant Secretary Hutchinson at Memphis, December 20, entitled "Plant To Prosper." To get a copy write the editor of USDA and ask for No. 2712.



## Ag centers in S. C.

THE PATTERN for producing county agricultural centers in South Carolina differs drastically from that found in New York, as described in *USDA* for December 5, 1949. In South Carolina the general rule was to prevail upon the county legislative delegation to arrange sponsorship for a WPA project, after which the county owned and maintained the building, collecting the rentals and providing the maintenance, if any. In many instances the buildings look as if they had had little care since they were erected and occupied, and all too infrequently has an effort been made to beautify them externally. Yet it did take sustained local initiative to get them erected in the first place.

Anderson's handsome \$400,000 agricultural center is always an exception, a U-shaped brick structure of two stories and basement containing 27,188 square feet, say about half the size of our own Agricultural Annex at 12th and C St., SW., Washington, D. C. Here a few mills had been added to the county tax rate to provide for remodeling the courthouse and the higher rate was retained to build and pay for the center entirely. It is the last word in this line and almost certainly the best such building in the U. S. A progressive county legislative delegation aided by a wealthy farming community in a county of half a million acres, containing 6,371 farms, and showing about 12 million dollars of agricultural income annually, produced this highly meritorious achievement.

The small center at Laurens, costing \$9,885, was bought and paid for by the county and was not a WPA project. But it contains only six offices, a conference room, and an auditorium seating 250, and is essentially an Extension, not an agricultural building. The center at Florence is large; it cost \$100,000 to \$150,000, but is crowded, as are many of the other centers, with nonagricultural State, county, and even Federal agencies. In Aiken, the center is an inadequate annex to the courthouse and in Walterboro it is a structure behind the reformed county jail which has also been remodeled for office purposes. The two-story brick agricultural centers at Darlington and Camden are attractive externally and well maintained within. Work efficiency of the scattered agricultural agencies in Spartanburg, which is a regional SCS headquarters, could be enhanced greatly if there were a single center to house them all. But so far the

project has not gotten beyond the stage of discussion.

Too many of the centers are now too small. In many cases the county legislative delegations now regret their lack of foresight in not sponsoring much larger buildings. The centers also often partake of the character of county office buildings because they are so crowded with varied nonagricultural units. Despite the collection of some rentals and of county maintenance funds, many of the centers are poorly maintained. Auditorium space is often lacking as auditoriums have usually had to be requisitioned for office space. The Negro Extension workers were housed in rented quarters except in Anderson where they have rooms in the basement of the agricultural building.

Adequate county agricultural centers undoubtedly contribute markedly to the more efficient and economical transaction of public business. They make things much more convenient and less exasperating for farmers. As local workers said, agency teamwork is enormously advanced when cooperating agencies are next-door neighbors. Permanent offices, easy to locate, are an advantage—and in one place one courthouse room had, from time to time, accommodated every agency in the town, while rentals mean almost constant removals. It is cheaper for the agencies to operate centers than to pay rent for inadequate quarters. So housed they are more comfortable, can arrange for meetings more easily, and in general can perform their functions far better than in courthouses, post offices, or casual and inappropriate rented quarters. At present 25 of South Carolina's 46 counties have agricultural buildings of one sort or another, and 10 more badly need better housing for agriculture. Only Spartanburg is at present considering a new centralized building.

### USDA DOCUMENTS

All *USDA* documents are in stock as follows: No. 1, Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, September 1, 1949; No. 2, Abridged List of Federal Laws Applicable to Agriculture, November 1, 1949; No. 3, Biographies of Persons in Charge of Federal Agricultural Work, 1836 to Date, June 2, 1948; No. 4, Condensed History of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, October 1, 1949; No. 5, Our Department Scientists—outstanding achievements of some of our earlier famous workers in natural science; No. 6, Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists, October 1, 1949. Order by number. Send *written orders* to the editor of *USDA*. Please do not phone. No. 2 is already out of stock; others will be supplied until gone.

## Smoke jumpers triumphant

THE MONTANA DISASTER which took the lives of 13 Forest Service smoke jumpers last August was a severe blow to the parachute fire fighters. But, in spite of their grief, they continued to perform magnificently in the control of fires that threatened to destroy the natural resources. Carl Gustafson, chief of the Division of Fire Control, FS, says the jumpers' spirit continues at a high level. Buddies of the men who died, stationed in Missoula, Mont., kept right on jumping. One made three and another four jumps immediately following the Mann Gulch fire.

A number of former smoke jumpers, who are now in other lines of work, wrote or wired FS they would be happy to come back and make emergency fire-fighting jumps if needed after the Mann Gulch tragedy. The Service also got a batch of new applications for jobs. Jumpers work only during the forest-fire season and are recruited from men who have already had fire-fighting experience. The smoke-jumper corps now numbers about 240.

## It's safer to work

THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL reports that almost twice as many employees are killed away from work as on the job. In 1948, 66 percent of the 48,500 workers accidentally killed, died in non-occupational accidents—in homes, on streets, or in other public places. Looks like it's much safer for you to be here at work than to go home to the bosom of your family!

During 1948 disabling injuries totaled 4.6 million. More than half occurred off the job. The hours between 5 and 8 p.m. are most dangerous of all for pedestrians in the fall and winter months, for people are then rushing heedlessly home in the gathering gloom. Better slow down at this time especially, whether walking or riding. Our country has one of the world's highest accident death rates already and is in need of no assistance from YOU in making it higher. However, your efforts to lower it will be appreciated. Only Iceland, Egypt, and Austria exceed us in this matter. They are welcome to the honor.

However, even though your accident occurs while off the job—assuming you simply insist on having one—it will cost the Government money. You don't want to do that do you? Then avoid accidents.



## In South Carolina

IT IS ALWAYS refreshing to get out into the field. For there is where the Department's real work is done. That is truly the front. It is not only the grass roots but it is where we meet our employers, the American farmers and the great American public generally. Therefore the editor greatly appreciated an arrangement which made it possible for him to accompany Everett C. Norberg, Office of Plant and Operations, on a 5-day automobile trip around South Carolina to visit a number of county agricultural centers. The trip was shrewdly planned by J. M. Eleazer of the Cooperative Extension Service in Clemson, and he enabled us to cover a considerable territory very quickly. We arrived at Spartanburg on December 12 by train, secured a somewhat temperamental automobile from SCS there, and set out to return to Spartanburg December 16.

In Spartanburg, County Agent W. J. Martin was visited. Dr. T. S. Buie, regional conservator for SCS, was in Washington on business and FHA Supervisor C. W. Rainey and PMA Administrative Officer J. O. Paterson were also on official trips. In Anderson, our next stop, we interviewed County Agent J. H. Hopkins and found FHA Supervisor C. J. Marett, George Meares of SCS, Joe A. McGee of PMA, and Hugh Agnew and Major Pruitt of PCA and FLB all in the fine \$400,000 agricultural center. C. B. Cameron, county agent at Laurens, could be interviewed only by telephone because our car collapsed and the application of restoratives delayed us.

We interviewed County Agent F. M. Kearse, FHA Supervisor James S. Corley, and H. J. Forrest, the PMA administrative officer, in Saluda. In Aiken, County Agent R. R. Mellette provided the information we required and also drove us around that beautiful little city; here are located FHA Supervisor J. C. Watson, J. E. Raffield, the PMA county administrative officer; and John Miley in SCS, who was out on business. In Barnwell we found D. A. Shelley, county agent; T. D. Christopher, in charge for SCS; H. C. Saunders, who was out on business, in charge for PMA. The FHA Supervisor, William C. Rivers, was also on an official trip.

In Hampton were County Agent C. W. Thompson; C. C. Parler of PMA; H. Q. Foster, the FHA supervisor, and Sanford Wolfe of SCS. In Walterboro, Colleton County, County Agent L. W. Alford had called a group meeting for us, attended

also by B. B. Cave of the PCA; C. M. Ellerbe, district conservationist for SCS; FHA Supervisor G. P. Fishburn, and W. S. Bush, the county administrative officer for PMA. In Orangeburg, County Agent J. C. McComb was at a district extension meeting; the FHA Supervisor was Jerome McMichael; J. B. Earle and L. L. Tillson represented SCS; and H. T. Corbett was PMA county administrative officer.

At Sumter, County Agent T. O. Bowen was also attending the district meeting but his secretary, Miss Jacqueline Garrett substituted ably. H. C. Seymour is administrative officer for PMA; W. B. Abbott represents SCS; and J. A. Reames is FHA supervisor. At Florence the district extension meeting was being held, but County Agent J. W. McLendon interviewed us. County Agent J. C. King of Marion was also at the Florence meeting, but his secretary, Mrs. Minnie S. Allen, proved to be an able substitute. County Agent C. P. Goodyear of Dillon was likewise at Florence, but his excellent secretary, Miss Irma F. Bost, was well prepared for us; G. W. Stuart is PMA county administrative officer here; J. V. Crownover is work-unit conservationist; and E. P. Ashby is FHA supervisor.

O. O. Dukes, county agent at Darlington, himself informed us about his center and took us around to meet E. D. Gilchrist, county administrative officer for PMA, and others; FHA Supervisor Warden J. McKenzie was out on business. At our final stop in Camden, Kershaw County, County Agent W. C. McCarley was out, but Home Demonstration Agent Margaret B. Fewell not only gave us the information we required but held a meeting of the USDA Council for us to attend. Here we met J. D. Crawford, PMA county administrative officer; John C. Stover of the PCA; V. T. Mullen of SCS; and FHA Supervisor J. E. Stuckey.



### TO GET PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

*Washington employees* can best get printed publications at Room 104A, to the right as you enter the Administration Building. *Field employees* address: Inquiries and Distribution Service, Division of Publications, Office of Information, USDA. *Extension workers:* Clear your order through State publication distribution officers when you want 50 or more copies of one publication; address other orders to Division of Extension Information, Extension Service, USDA, Washington, D. C. Please do not ask the Editor of *USDA* for copies of such publications as he has no stock of them. He stocks only items for which you are told to write the Editor of *USDA*.

## County ag centers

IN SOUTH CAROLINA, as other articles herein attest, the usual way to produce a county agricultural center was for progressive citizens to prevail on the county's legislative delegation to get funds appropriated for the sponsorship of a WPA building project. This, of course, took local initiative and forward-looking legislators. In only one instance was the center derived from a hike in current taxation rates and in one the county erected the building as a non-WPA project. Things are quite different in New York State where each of the centers was brought into being by a more or less unique method.

In Salamanca the city, after a public referendum, renovated and remodeled an old movie house it owned, at a cost of \$12,000, and turned it over to the Farm and Home Bureau and 4-H Club Association as a county agricultural center. Somewhat similarly a county-owned building in Westport was turned over to the Association for use as a center. In Saratoga the board of supervisors provided funds for the Association to purchase a large residence then occupied by Extension and to remodel it so that other agencies could come in too. In Cooperstown the Clark Estate, entirely at its own expense and because of manifest public need, renovated an old residence and deeded it to the Association for the use of Extension; it is later to add a wing to accommodate the other Federal agricultural units.

At Penn Yan a woman much interested in Extension work sold a residence she owned to the Association for only \$8,000—\$500 down and \$500 a year, and local farmers contributed as much as \$12,000 at one time to remodel and refit the building, and other sums at other times; not all agencies are accommodated by the center yet. In Mount Morris the village itself offered to buy an old residence, build on a meeting room, and rent it to the Association as a center for \$600 a year; rentals from portions sublet now exceed this sum and allow a margin for maintenance.

The center in Batavia is discussed rather at length in Extension Service Review for February. It is the best in New York State but the \$60,000 total investment there is small change as compared with Anderson, S. C.'s \$400,000 center. The Batavia center also was an old residence which had been so well constructed as to withstand 25 years unoccupied. It was purchased with direct contributions of \$100 each from a



number of wealthy farmers, plus a small loan, and initially remodeled with \$6,000 more of direct contributions. Subsequently, a loan of \$20,000, since reduced to \$14,000, many contributions, and proceeds from special auctions of donated animals and goods, and from exhibits space were used. At one time \$2,000 was raised during a Farm and Home Spring Festival by taking over the local movie for 1 week and paying a rental of \$200 a day for overhead and customary maintenance. Rentals meet upkeep needs.

At Albion an old brick residence was purchased and remodeled, using donations totaling \$12,000 as well as auctions of donated animals, bingo, raffles, and whatever else goes with big field days which brought in a total of \$16,000 at different times. Here total expenses have been \$22,000 of which \$12,000 went for remodeling and repair, and there is a cash reserve fund of \$6,000 to provide a basement meeting room and asphalt tile floors all over when prices are right. At New Hartford the county purchased a disused Masonic Temple for \$24,000 and turned it over to the Association for a center at a rental of \$1 a year; it is maintained by about \$1,500 in rentals plus an annual county contribution of about \$3,500.

At Cobleskill a site with an old foundation on the edge of town was purchased with farmer contributions and a frame building was erected during the period of scarce materials and high prices immediately following the war. The building itself cost about \$27,000 of which \$18,000 was derived from a bank loan, but fund-raising schemes of all sorts were used too—as much as \$4,500 was raised on one raffle of one automobile. Total costs to date have been \$30,000, including additional work after the building was occupied; the debt is down to \$12,000. Rentals bring in \$3,900 a year, of which \$2,000 is clear above maintenance and can be applied to repair, remodeling, and the mortgage.

If you are interested in county agricultural centers and there is local initiative looking towards one, you might like to get the publication "Agricultural Buildings for Counties," No. 6, from Office of Plant and Operations, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., which contains interesting floor and exterior plans for centers, and other pertinent information.

#### If the cow blows first

"Trying to cure the ills of society is rather like dosing a cow; you want one man to hold its mouth open while another blows the pill to the back of its throat down a cardboard tube; and it has the same danger, that the cow may blow first." (The Scientific Attitude by C. H. Waddington, a Pelican book.)

## Farm housing loans

IF THE FIRST four loans are any indication of reasons for families seeking farm housing credit, Farmers Home Administration officials feel the new loan program will meet a wide variety of needs this year. When Vaughn Jones, 25-year-old disabled veteran and his wife received the first farm housing loan in the Nation on November 17, they were living in a rickety, ramshackle old house near Scottsboro, Ala. They're still living there, but they've started work on their new 5-room bungalow, and have also arranged to replace an old barn on their place. In Sherburne County, Minn., the Victor Bergquist family live in the roofed-over basement of a house they didn't have money to finish. But with the second loan in the Nation, their housing construction work has been resumed.

Eugene and Ida Winchester of Fannin County, Tex., are still "making out" in an aged, dilapidated sharecropper cabin on the farm they bought 2 years ago. But they have their loan money now to start building a new house any day. Their FHA check was delivered by their neighbor, Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House of Representatives, in a special loan-closing ceremony at Windom. Marine Corps veteran Hubert Herndon and his family of Morgan County, Ga., are living cooped up with his parents—because Herndon couldn't afford to build a place of his own. But his housing plans are already drawn up, and the loan he received in December will soon mean his own house.

These first loans have attracted broad public attention, and visitors from out-of-state as well as nearby have attended the special loan-closing ceremonies. Mayors, Governors, Senators, and Representatives have participated in the events, and local leaders and civic clubs have put on elaborate programs to show their interest in the new credit plan and to offer their help in starting it off.

Scores of applications are being filed daily throughout the country, more than 4,600 having been received during November alone, the first month of the program's operation. All are being handled as quickly as possible to enable farm owners to construct, repair, improve, remodel, or replace houses or other farm buildings for which they cannot get suitable credit elsewhere. Although only owners are eligible, landlords may borrow to build or improve housing for their tenants, sharecroppers, or farm laborers. FHA county offices accept applications and answer loan inquiries.

## Graduate School

THE USDA GRADUATE SCHOOL was thought about many years ago and came into existence during the administration of Henry C. Wallace. Suggestions looking toward it were made in the time "Tama Jim" Wilson was Secretary. Its course registration for its twenty-eighth term, 1948-49, numbered 6,418 and individual student registrations totaled 4,819, a gain of 14 percent over the previous year. Peak enrollment was in the war year 1943. Of the 1948-49 enrollment the Department of Agriculture supplied 919 or 14.3 percent. The Department of the Navy led in this respect with 1,067 or 16.6 percent of the total. The Department of the Army had 1,010 or 15.7 percent. Nearly all Government agencies were represented besides 569 nongovernmental workers and 177 unemployed persons.

The school is governed by an administrative board named from USDA's staff by the Secretary of Agriculture. It has departments of languages and literature, office techniques and operations, technology, mathematics and statistics, public administration, social sciences, and biological sciences. T. Roy Reid, Director of Personnel for USDA, is chairman of the administrative board. The other members are H. H. Bennett, SCS; P. V. Cardon, ARA; Ivy W. Duggan, FCA; C. O. Henderson, Pers; Albert J. Loveland, Under Secretary of Agriculture; Lyle F. Watts, FS; Oris V. Wells, BAE; Claude R. Wickard, REA; and M. L. Wilson, Ext. Lewis H. Rohrbaugh is director of the Graduate School.

## USDA GS in Denver

THREE GRADUATE SCHOOL resident courses have been adopted by the University of Denver's Community Institute. During the fall semester, which began on October 3, these courses are being offered: Federal Personnel Procedure, Government Letter Writing, and Federal Accounting Procedure. This program is being sponsored jointly by the University of Denver and the Denver Federal Personnel Council for Federal employees in the Denver area.

Recently, H. C. Hilton, assistant regional forester in charge of personnel, Forest Service, suggested that the Denver Federal Personnel Council explore what could be done to meet some of the educational needs of Federal employees, in some such fashion as the USDA's Graduate School does for Federal workers in Washington.



A recent poll of the Federal workers in Denver revealed that 37 percent were interested in attending educational activities connected with their work. In response to the poll, the University of Denver organized three courses. The tuition fee is \$12 per course and each course meets once a week for 10 weeks. A Certificate of Achievement will be awarded to each person who satisfactorily completes a course.

## Writing for homemakers

THERE ARE NO dull subjects—only dull writers. To write well: Visualize; Analyze; Organize; Dramatize. These are the keynotes of a new book from the Iowa State College Press, Ames, Iowa, entitled "How to Write for Homemakers," by Lou Richardson and Genevieve Callahan, priced at \$3. While writing for homemakers is something the editor rarely if ever does, he is assured by experts that this is the book to tell him how if he ever has a yen to enter this field. Furthermore, he inclines to believe these (female) experts.

The ladies not only appear to know what they are talking about; they are specialists in enabling the reader to do what they have done through the medium of the printed word. (Excuse us while we whip up a batch of cheese-frosted biscuits!) The book is comprehensive. It offers practical, illustrated, easy-to-follow instructions for writing household material of every type: Recipes, booklets, publicity releases, demonstrations, cookbooks, magazine articles, bulletins, films, radio, television. It is a handy desk book for home economists in every field of their work. Type, proofreading, and even letters, memoranda, and reports come in for attention.

The book is well documented. It closes with sections on terminology, generic terms, the processes in food preparation, and information about servings per unit for various canned foods. There are special sections by Katherine Goepfinger, professor of journalism at Iowa State, and the art is by Philip Little. There is a good index.

## Correspondence study

Personnel Memorandum No. 770, "Correspondence Study and Extension Education Facilities," which may be procured from your own personnel officer, lists the institutions of higher learning which offer correspondence study programs. It also indicates those offering courses in the 24 subjects most frequently listed in the survey recently made by the Department's Graduate School Committee on Correspondence Study and Extension Education. See *USDA* for December 5, 1949.

## Forester Watts

LYLE F. WATTS, Chief of Forest Service, is rated a "great living American" by *Coronet*, the January issue of which carried a profile of him under the title "Forester Watts, Guardian of Our Land." Reviewing the high lights of his 35-year career as a forester, the article portrayed Mr. Watts as a man who conducts "a ceaseless battle to make sure that our precious natural resources are not mismanaged or ruthlessly plundered."

Mr. Watts was pictured as a friendly, unpretentious man interested in the welfare of every FS employee. He was also presented as a good businessman who is proud of the 20 million-dollar-a-year timber-sale business conducted on the 152 National Forests, water from which supplies more than 1,000 cities and towns, irrigates 21 million acres in 17 Western States, and turns hydroelectric turbines at more than 400 water-power projects. We read:

"To keep fire under control, Watts has at his command 750 ranger stations, enough telephone wire to crisscross the U. S. 20 times, enough truckloads to go around the world 6 times, and 114 improved air-strips."

The *Coronet* article, one of a series on "Great Living Americans," was written by Hal Burton who concluded:

"To Lyle Watts, the battle is an unending one—against private interests when they become grasping, against public inertia, against fire and human carelessness, against insects which destroy each year more timber than do flames. He relies on the people of the U. S., whose trustee he is, for support in this fight. Without this support, the battle may be lost. But with public backing, our greatest national treasure will be saved for all time."

## Brandes still raising cane

Dr. E. W. Brandes, chief of the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, is still raising better and better cane—sugarcane that is. Louisiana's sugar plantations, after a battle against mosaic and other diseases that began a quarter of a century ago, are improving year by year. The latest recruit is C. P. 44/101 which Dr. Brandes says will be one of the most valuable and widely adapted cane varieties ever released for growth in that State. Dr. Brandes and his staff have secured breeding material from all sugarcane areas of the world and have long carried on breeding and selection work with the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. Since 1924 two dozen new varieties have been released to planters and the C. P. varieties developed at Canal Point, Fla., now occupy 84 percent of Louisiana's cane lands. But the newest, C. P. 44/101, is also the best, says Dr. Brandes.

## Brief but important

### Johnstone head man

William C. Johnstone, Kentucky extension field agent in agronomy, has been named "Man of the Year in Service to Southern Agriculture" by the Progressive Farmers. He is the thirteenth benefactor of southern agriculture to receive this award.

### Lefebvre transfers

Dr. C. L. Lefebvre of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering has joined the staff of Office of Experiment Stations as a specialist in plant pathology. Widely known for his research on fungi and bacteria he is one of USDA's authorities on the identification of diseases afflicting forage crops and turf plants.

### Farmers and the census

U. S. farmers will help the census taker next spring by filling out questionnaires their rural mail carriers will bring them and the enumerators will collect them after the farmer has filled them out. The forms contain about 100 questions most of which can be answered without difficulty. These relate to the person in charge, farm acreage, field crops, land uses, farm and off-farm experience, irrigation, forest products, pasture rentals, livestock numbers and sales of livestock and their products, farm facilities and equipment, farm labor, farm operating expenditures, local farm conditions, and land prices.

### Farm prices

Farm prices have dropped much faster and farther than other prices—an average of 22 percent in less than 2 years. But farmers have to pay within 4 percent as much for what they buy as they paid 2 years ago. Farm operators are netting about 20 percent less income than in 1947, and economists believe the net may go down about 15 percent in the year ahead. Consumer prices have not dropped nearly so much as farmers' prices, and consumer demand for farm products has declined. Abnormal postwar exports of farm products are still large but dropping, and they may total 10 percent less in 1950.

### Are you an impulse shopper?

Do you sail into the food market without a shopping list in your hand or a planned menu in your head and then buy impulsively—maybe even while quite hungry? Then, say our food economists, you get poor return for your money. You will probably forget important items, buy too much or too little, purchase luxuries because persuasively packaged and placed in your path, bulge the budget, and have to make return trips to market. Plan your menus days ahead. List your needs in pen on a small card. Consult the USDA guides to the seven basic foods and include the essentials for good nutrition without emptying your pocketbook. Be thrifty not impulsive.

### Milk and blood

A cow pumps about 400 pounds of blood through her udder for each pound of milk she produces. Yet Bureau of Dairy Industry scientists find that many good cows manage this through veins showing no visible development. Yet dairy cattle have long been judged by their development of visible veins in the surface of their udders and abdomens. The theory is plausible but false. Our dairy scientists have checked and compared scores for the veining of nearly 200 cows of the Beltsville herd, and the results show little or no correlation between the distribution and visibility of veins and milk production. Many expert milk-pail fillers make small if any showing of milk veins.



## Findlen returns

Dr. Paul J. Findlen has returned to the Division of Agricultural Economics in Extension Service after being in Ireland about a year as program review officer with ECA's Irish Mission.

## Secretary's name on door

Our sleuths report that heads of some sections and divisions list not only their own names but the names of their secretaries on the door. Sounds like a good idea that would work well in many field offices too. How far has the custom spread?

## Beasley laboratory dedicated

Dr. Thomas Kerr represented the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering at the dedication, November 3, of the new cotton laboratory and greenhouse unit at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station which will be used for the study of cotton cytology and genetics. The laboratory is named in honor of Dr. James P. Beasley, a former PISAE agent, who was killed in action during World War II. Agricultural Research Administrator P. V. Cardon made the dedicatory speech.

## Soil classification

The applicability of our USDA techniques for classifying and mapping potentially productive soils in tropical Africa is suggested by an exploratory study of soil groups in the Belgian Congo prepared by Dr. Charles E. Kellogg and Miss Fidelia Davol of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. Published in Brussels, this study is based on work by Dr. Kellogg in the early summer of 1947 when, in the company of F. Jurion, now director general of the Institut National pour l'Etude Aeronomique de Congo Belge, he examined selected sites representing important soil regions in the Congo. Laboratory studies of about 25 soil profiles were made at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., mainly by Miss Davol.

## Tung tree form and storm damage

How tung trees resist big winds depends on their shape. Following the hurricane of August 27, 1949, in the vicinity of Gainesville, Fla., Dr. Felix S. Lagassee of USDA found that trees trained to a vase shape suffered the greatest damage; those with a single trunk and having a weak leader or none at all (the "cartwheel" type) suffered the next greatest damage. Trees trained to a single trunk with a strong central leader and well-distributed branches withstood the storm with little damage. These findings agree with those previously reported by Samuel Merrill of the Bogalusa, La., laboratory after the 1947 hurricane. They indicate pruning practices that will lessen immediate storm damage and tend to increase the longevity of tung orchards.

## New Leopold book

Friends of the late Aldo Leopold will be glad to know that a number of his essays on conservation subjects have been collected and published in a book—"A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There," Oxford University Press, New York City, \$3.50. The book, in 3 parts, contains 41 essays and is illustrated by Charles W. Schwartz. Part I, "A Sand County Almanac," deals with observations around his home in Wisconsin; Part II, "Sketches Here and There," covers a wide range of geography, from the Southwest to Manitoba; while Part III, "The Upshot," is the author's analysis of the conservation movement—why it is not doing too well today but why it must succeed if the human race is to survive. Dr. Leopold spent many years in Forest Service and later became famous at the University of Wisconsin as the country's first professor of wildlife management and its foremost wildlife ecologist.

## Frozen-food marketing

Production and Marketing Administration has released a new publication called "Marketing Frozen Foods—Facilities and Methods." Procure copies of this report from Information Branch, PMA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Leonard dies in retirement

Lewis T. Leonard, retired bacteriologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, died November 30 in Washington, D. C., aged 64. He entered old BPI in 1904 and retired in 1945, working meanwhile on the nitrogen-forming microorganisms which produce nodules on the roots of legumes. He was a specialist on the control of commercial crop inoculants. He took his degrees at George Washington University and was a native of Academia, Pa.

## Warren T. Murphy

Warren T. Murphy has been appointed field representative in the Colorado River Basin Inter-Mountain Area with headquarters at Salt Lake City. He will still represent USDA on the Pacific Southwest Federal Inter-Agency Technical Committee. He has hitherto been a general inspector on the staff of the chief of the Forest Service and is a graduate in forestry from University of California with a master's in the same subject from Yale. He has been with FS since 1927, closely associated with the analysis and development of long-range programs for the conservation of forest and forest range lands.

## Cotton allotments

Many amendments and exceptions had crept into the old legislation on allotments and, under that law, a national cotton allotment of 27 million acres would have been set for 1950, so Congress changed the law by the Agricultural Act of 1949, but put in a proviso that the national allotment should not fall below 21 million acres. This was broken down to States and counties, but when the latter was broken down to individual farms a few growers in virtually all the 20 cotton States protested their cut was too heavy. This is because a farmer gets a certain percentage of his cropland, not of his historical base as previously, as his allotment, and because growers with fewer than 5 acres got a minimum of their highest acreage in recent years. The leeway was viewed as insufficient and many growers with more than 5 acres were heavily cut. There are indications that Congress will take up this problem.

## Letter from India

The following letter was addressed to the USDA under date of December 14, 1949, by N. V. Nayak, principal of the Cooperative Training College, Poona, India: "I am very grateful to you for putting the name of our College on your free mailing list. The publications of your Department are so instructive and informative that every student and worker interested in the social and economic reconstruction of underdeveloped countries cannot fail to find a number of hints and guidance in his work of rural reconstruction activities in his own country. In these days when there is a lot of talk on planning, and schemes are drawn in legion all over the world, sometimes to be given up as quickly as they are formulated because of the lack of scientific analysis of the facts of the situation and the resources in men, money, and materials available, the study of your publications should provide the proper corrective and prevent waste. People who have been accustomed to feel that the Americans are only worshippers of the dollars should do well to learn a little more about the great contribution which your country has been making at its own cost to the rebuilding of the war-weary and distressed world by establishing cultural and other contacts with the people of the different countries. Yours faithfully,"

## Sugarcane research

Production and Marketing Administration has completed "A Study of Marketing Sugarcane in Louisiana," and the report is available from the Information Branch, PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Wool price supports

The USDA announced December 19 continuance of the 1949 wool price support program through March 31, 1950; for details and background material write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2707.

## RMA policy committee meeting

The 11-man Agricultural Research Policy Committee established under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946 held its quarterly meeting December 8-9. If you want to know who was there and what was accomplished write the editor of USDA and ask for No. 2656.

## Himebaugh to Europe

Keith Himebaugh, Director of Information for USDA, has gone to Europe on loan to ECA for 3 months to aid in the establishment of agricultural information outlets and technical information services for farmers in the Marshall Plan countries. Associate Director of Information R. L. Webster is Acting Director during Keith's absence.

## Want to build a pond?

If so, new USDA Leaflet No. 259, "How to Build a Farm Pond" will give you the desired information. Its recommendations are confined to ponds with watersheds of fewer than 30 acres and not on continuously flowing streams. Its author is Walter S. Atkinson, chief of the engineering division of Soil Conservation Service's Northeastern Region. Procure as you do other printed publications, as explained in USDA for October 10, 1949.

## Futures trading

An economic study of the operations of organized futures markets and their part in the marketing and distribution of agricultural commodities has been undertaken by the Brookings Institution, financed jointly by a grant from the Merrill Foundation for the Advancement of Financial Knowledge, Inc., and a research contract with USDA under the Research and Marketing Act. The study will be directed by Harold B. Rowe of Brookings and should be completed in about 3 years.

## Stephenson retires

John H. Stephenson, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, has retired after some 38 years of information work. A native of Canada who spent his early childhood in Buffalo, he became a newspaper man and entered old BPI while "Tama Jim" Wilson was Secretary of Agriculture. A primary interest of his is the lore, practices, and equipment of fire fighting and he was made an honorary member of the District of Columbia Fire Department in 1948.

## Cows like it around 50° F.

The cow is a benign, calm, and somewhat melancholy animal but it responds to temperature quite notably. High temperature causes a greater decrease in milk production than does low temperature and the temperature most favorable for both milk production and efficiency of feed appears to be about 50° F. The work upon which this statement is based has been carried on by the Psychrophoretic Laboratory in Columbia, Mo., operated jointly by our Agricultural Research Administration and the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station. If you would like some further information on this interesting project write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2657.



## George A. Starring

The first extension editor for South Dakota, George A. Starring, died November 18. Appointed professor of journalism at South Dakota State College in 1910, he began the extension news service there.

## Watkins retires

W. I. Watkins, soil correlator, Division of Soil Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, stationed at Lincoln, Nebr., has retired after 35 years of service with various USDA agencies. He plans to become a gentleman farmer on his place in the Ozarks.

## "Query Queen"

That's the title conferred by Pathfinder Magazine of November 30 on Mrs. Eleanor Clay, "boss of the 5-man inquiry desk at the Agriculture Department's main entrance." As Pathfinder points out, every 127 seconds some taxpayer from somewhere calls upon Mrs. Clay and her aides for the answer to a question. Personally, we have yet to see her stumped for an answer.

## Self-service meat selling

The Production and Marketing Administration has issued a report of a study made under authority of the Research and Marketing Act dealing with the costs, packaging methods and materials, merchandizing practices, and some other unsolved problems in selling meat self-service. If you would like a digest of the findings write the editor of USDA and ask for No. 2634.

## REA publications

Two bright and highly useful Rural Electrification Administration publications have caught our eye: Miscellaneous Publication No. 674, "Planning the Electric Water System and Plumbing for your Farmstead," and No. 689, "Your Farmhouse Heating." As usual these how-to-do-it pamphlets are readable, well-illustrated, and very practical. The drawings do about everything but talk.

## "Ranger 'Rithmetic"

This is the title of a recent publication from Forest Service, aimed at the sixth grade, and designed to teach the younger generation early in life the basic facts about conserving our natural resources. Sons and daughters of forest rangers who suggested problems upon which the pamphlet is based are listed in the back. The publication is illustrated with pert and pat drawings.

## Dr. Shaw's auxiliary brain

A recent release from the Atomic Energy Commission described an electronic selector which is expected to scan a coded library catalog at a rate of 120,000 entries per minute, or 10,000 times as fast as the average human. Development of this selector has been under the supervision of Dr. Ralph Shaw, USDA librarian. The working model was made at the suggestion of Dr. Vannevar Bush under an AEC grant.

## Smithfield Show

The first post-war Smithfield Show was held in London the middle of December to commemorate 150 years' growth and development in British agriculture. When the show was organized British cattle weighed about 2 tons and took 5 years to mature; today's British bullocks are compact animals weighing between 1,200 and 1,600 pounds, all first-quality meat. Honors of the show went to Scotland for Douglas, a crossbred steer weighing 1,457 pounds at 2 years and 8 months, and exhibited by the Scottish Malt Distillers of East Lothian. The animal was sired by a Shorthorn bull out of an Aberdeen-Angus shorthorn crossbred cow.

## Spring semester

The USDA Graduate School offers many vocational and avocational subjects of high interest to Agriculture's employees during its spring semester. Register January 28 through February 3 and avoid a late-registration fee. Procure the schedule of courses from your own personnel office.

## Guncotton stabilization

A new method of stabilizing guncotton, which saves about two-thirds of the time formerly needed for making this important explosive, has been developed by the Southern Regional Research Laboratory of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. It makes possible a substantial cut in the cost of smokeless powder for guns of large caliber, hence helps taxpayers get more for their defense dollars. Its use also permits powder factories to be smaller and less vulnerable to possible bombing. For full details on this, ask Agricultural Research Administration, USDA, for Research Achievement Sheet No. 123 (C).

## Scientific research

"The Principles of Scientific Research" by Paul Freedman, (published by MacDonald & Co., London; available in the U. S. at \$2.10 a copy—and the USDA Library has it) contains some of the clearest expositions of the almost inscrutable that the editor has read. It is *not* a history of science, neither is it light bedside reading for the dilettante. It is a clear, concise, yet profound discussion of the basic principles upon which modern scientific research is founded. Recommended especially to all our scientific workers and to all others with a serious, intelligent interest in the planning and performance of research, and in the kind of persons who should undertake this supremely important task.

## Thorp elected a fellow

At the recent meeting of the Geological Society of America, in El Paso, James Thorp, principal soil correlator for the Great Plains States, stationed at Lincoln, Nebr., and a staff member of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, was elected a fellow. He is also cochairman of the Committee for the Study of Eolian Deposits, a subcommittee of the Committee on Interrelations of Pleistocene Research, National Research Council, which is making a study of Pleistocene Age geology, soil science, and other physical sciences. At the geological society meeting Mr. Thorp exhibited a first-draft map of the Eolian deposits of North America showing the various wind-laid deposits so important as sources of soil-forming materials.

## The elusive egg

The speed with which a high-quality egg can slump into mediocrity and worse equals any record of human depravation you will run across. One out of every three eggs has dropped below Grade A by the time farmers in 13 midwestern States sell them to country stores and other first receivers. More than 2 out of 5 have lost their aristocratic Grade A status before reaching a carlot assembler about 2 days later in a journey to market that may absorb 2 or 3 weeks! Many of them wind up as plain bums! For more information on this see "Egg Quality is Elusive," by Hermon I. Miller, in Marketing Activities for November, available from PMA, USDA. You will find in the same issue informative and readable articles on the newest old crop—the safflower, a proposed new beef grade, and frozen food marketing, not to mention photographic mapping of the land from the air—"Surveyors with Wings," by Ralph H. Moyer.

## Soybeans

"Soybean Oil and Protein," featuring work by USDA scientists, is the title of a brief article in the September 1949 American Journal of Pharmacy; the editor of USDA has a very few separates of this article.

## Buchanan in Germany

Dr. R. E. Buchanan, former Director of the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, is now on leave as a research professor in Germany and lectures twice weekly in German on bacteriology at Frankfurt.

## Weed research

On December 7, Dr. R. M. Salter, Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, made a talk on "Taking Stock of Weed Research" before an audience at Sioux Falls, S. Dak. It contains many interesting and informative details on this subject and if you would like a copy write Press Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., and request No. 2587.

## Livestock insect control

Entomologists of the USDA recommend the new insecticides toxaphene and lindane for the control of several of the most serious insect pests affecting livestock—toxaphene for ticks, lice, hornflies, and sheep ticks and lindane for lice on dairy cattle, and lice and ticks on other cattle. If you want more detailed information write the editor of USDA and ask for No. 2679.

## Apple storage and refrigeration

If interested in apple storage refrigeration in Virginia, write the editor of USDA and ask for release No. 2680, which summarizes a recent survey of that State's cold storage space for apples made as a Research and Marketing Act project by Robert L. Givens, a USDA engineer stationed at Blacksburg, Va. If you are interested in the effect of temperature upon the normal storage life expectancy of apples in the Pacific Northwest, ask for No. 2681, which summarizes a review of new problems in Northwest apple storage by G. F. Sainsbury, another USDA engineer.

## Erwin E. Nelson

Dr. Erwin E. Nelson has become medical director of the Food and Drug Administration, Federal Security Agency. While the unit was in USDA in 1935, Dr. Nelson came to it on leave of absence and organized the Division of Pharmacology, serving as its first chief. He was a consultant in pharmacy for the old Bureau of Chemistry as early as 1923. A graduate of the University of Missouri, Dr. Nelson took his M. D. at University of Michigan, then studied at Johns Hopkins and the University of Munich. He joined the faculty of University of Michigan and later became Professor of Pharmacy there; in 1937 he left FDA to head the department of pharmacy at Tulane. He has served as chief of the new-drug section, Division of Medicine, FDA, since 1947.

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JANUARY 30, 1950

## IN EXPLANATION

The editor of *USDA* regrets that it is not possible to supply you with items and materials offered in *USDA* by telephone or on personal visits. Please send written orders for what you want; these can be wholly informal just so they are legible, and always give your agency's name. The editor's only assistant is a part-time typist who works in a room some distance from him, has another telephone altogether, and has other assignments that fill her time. You can rest assured that all written orders will be filled just as promptly as we can manage it.

## Cardon on food

**EFFORTS TO HELP** hungry people increase their food production must begin with individual farmers, said Agricultural Research Administrator P. V. Cardon not long ago. To relieve the world's "grotesque food situation" we must have determined, concerted, effective, down-to-earth action so as to balance people and resources on a world-wide basis. Full use must be made of physical science, social science, and engineering.

Putting together all estimates on the physical and biological side, we could far exceed the 1960 needs that have been forecast by the Food and Agricultural Organization. But this is by no means saying that we *could* in terms of practical social operations, and even if we could, it doesn't follow that the people of the world *will* do so. Such estimates fill no empty stomachs, but they do tell us that the production problems are manageable, if we can find a way to manage the economic, social, political, and institutional ones.

The job must begin with the farmer, for national and global food supply depends on decisions made by hundreds of millions of individual farmers on millions of farms, no two of which are exactly alike. The choices are set not only by biological and physical science but by economic and institutional concepts. Local, provincial, and national governments must permit farmers full freedom of choices so that they may make good decisions under full enlightenment about world conditions. There is a growing consciousness of national responsibility for the global job to be done in so-called underdeveloped countries. We must encourage even the most faltering efforts toward assumption of this responsibility.

## Soil and human nutrition

The lead article in "Current Research in the Science of Nutrition," based on material in December 1949 issue of *Nutrition Reviews*, discusses the work of Dr. Kenneth Reeson and his United States Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory at Ithaca, as well as the controversy about the relative values of commercial or "chemical" fertilizers as opposed to organic fertilizers. You can get on the mailing list to receive this publication regularly by writing Nutrition Foundation, Inc., Chrysler Bldg., New York City 17. It is free.

## How we're eating

"THIS COUNTRY'S food supply is sufficient to give everyone a diet that would meet recommended nutritional allowances, if each person received the needed share and used it with discrimination." So says Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling, Chief, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. The eating habits of city dwellers in the U. S. are gradually shifting, mostly for the better insofar as nutrition is concerned, with low-income families showing the greatest improvement. A survey just published provides new information on the Nation's progress toward the 100-percent goal of 150 million good diets.

Among low-income families the trend is toward the use of more meat, poultry, fish, and eggs; more milk and its products, other than butter; more fruits and vegetables, notably citrus fruit; more tomatoes and green and yellow vegetables. A larger proportion of the families in the higher-income brackets have been getting varied and adequate diets. Many are improving diets by using more milk, fruit, and vegetables—even among the top-third income group.

In the spring of 1948 about 70 percent of the families surveyed were consuming sufficient calcium to meet the recommendations of nutrition experts; compare this with only about 33 percent of the families in 1936. Eighty percent of the city families were getting recommended quantities of vitamin C in their diets in 1948, and 80 to 90 percent sufficient vitamin A value, three B vitamins, iron, and protein to meet recommendations. This is a great improvement over 1936. "The fact that families in the lower-income groups fared better as the years passed suggests that our changing food habits are the result of many forces, including education, abundant food supplies, and increases in purchasing power," says Dr. Stiebeling.

## Weed warfare

**WAR ON WEEDS** has been declared by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. According to Dr. William E. Meek, cotton has been produced in the humid area with only 21½ man-hours of labor per acre of which 14 went for hand weeding. Some hand weeding is still unavoidable. But progress has been made. A lightweight two-row general-purpose tractor has been used successfully for weed control, when equipped with a shovel cultivator in front, a flame cultivator on the rear, and a complete spray system for applying herbicides. A new flame burner formed of sheet metal has been developed, more efficient and faster than those used hitherto, and new-type rotary weeder attachments mounted between the cultivator gangs are reducing hand labor in weed control.

Dr. Karl S. Quisenberry announces that much more research will soon be under way on weed control in southern cotton areas, the first problem to receive attention being the grass weeds which grow in between the rows and are a hazard at cotton harvesttime. Plans are also being worked out to eradicate weeds that are a serious hazard in vegetable-growing areas. While sagebrush is being fairly well controlled by newly developed methods, the problem of the mesquite and other bushy plants that ruin range lands of the Southwest must be solved. Weeds in fresh-water lakes, recreation areas, and municipal water reservoirs must be controlled.

Dr. Quisenberry advocates closer integration of screening tests for the great number of new chemicals used in weed control. He also advocates the development of a weed bibliography to be used by scientists investigating weed problems in order to keep abreast of things. Increased cooperative research on weed control is just in the offing. War has been declared against weeds.



## Speculative trading

COMMODITY EXCHANGE AUTHORITY has made a study of speculative trading in grain futures, concerned primarily with the trading behavior of small speculators and the results thereof. For your information the great majority of them lost money in the grain futures market—6,598 had net losses as against 2,184 showing net profits, out of 8,782 whose operations were analyzed. This major research project was outlined in the late thirties when CEA arranged to obtain basic data from the original trading records of a large Chicago brokerage house no longer in business. The work was interrupted by the war and now appears as Technical Bulletin No. 1001, "An Analysis of Speculative Trading in Grain Futures."

The study throws much light on the characteristic trading behavior of speculators. Losses of the above-mentioned speculators were approximately six times total profits, or nearly 12 million dollars lost as compared with 2 million dollars of profits! These high-loss ratios are attributable in the main to the small speculator's characteristic hesitation in closing out loss positions. They showed a clear tendency to take their profits but to let their losses run. Future positions or cycles resulting in losses were held open for consistently longer periods than profit cycles.

The study confirms the common impression that amateur speculators are far more likely to be long than short in the futures market, but preference for the long side was not as great as supposed from the standpoint of market activity. Fewer large-scale trader accounts were studied but these indicated that the group contained no greater proportion of profit traders than groups with smaller average positions. There were no pronounced differences in the trading results of different occupational groups. The proportion of grain-business managers showing profits was 29.1 percent; of retired persons 26.6, professional people 24.1, manual workers 22.4, and farmers only 21.2 percent.

### Ag research with radiophosphorus

We have a brief mimeographed report from the Atomic Energy Commission on Agricultural Research with Radiophosphorus in 1949. To get a copy write the editor of USDA.

We now have in stock USDA Document No. 2, Abridged List of Federal Laws Applicable to Agriculture, November 1, 1949, as well as the other five mentioned in USDA for January 16.

## Manhattan agriculture

AGRICULTURE in New York City is a thriving affair, despite the professed astonishment of the naive natives when they ask what the USDA can possibly be doing there. We like to tell them. We like to tell them about our men who prevent marauding insects from entering this country via freighter or airplane, who inspect the animals and meat from foreign lands, and quarantine some at Clifton station for a further investigation, who keep an eye on plant materials of all sorts at a big establishment in Hoboken, and who pass on many of our exports as well.

Before dawn our market news reporters are gathering information on market trading to be flashed by wire and radio to brokers, traders, bankers, and farmers all over the Nation. Meat is being inspected in the packing-house district. Other USDA inspectors are on produce piers, in poultry terminals, at grain elevators, in butter and cheese plants, guarding the rights of both farmers and consumers. Our packers and stockyards man, having cleaned up rackets of long standing in poultry and elsewhere, now keep things clean. Our men investigate and help settle disputes in interstate trading in perishables, wiping out sharp practices as they go along. Compliance men work quietly to prevent attempts to defraud the Government.

Hundreds bend over intricate electric bookkeeping, sorting, and tabulating machines, handling the purchase, movement, and storage of tremendous quantities of food for Europe, the armed forces, use under the Marshall Plan, or involved in the International Wheat Agreement, not to mention their work on school-lunch programs and price-support guarantees to farmers. USDA men supervise these commodities on piers, in cars, on ships, and in warehouses—their care, loading, and movement. Auditors and investigators prevent fraud by people outside or even within the USDA.

One medium-sized group supervises the operations of commodity exchanges. Others look out for the distribution of commodities to charitable and nonprofit institutions. Specialists work on innumerable phases of marketing, transportation, storage, packaging, and the like, to help the public get more for its food dollar, to help the farmer profit on high-quality products, and to aid business in cutting handling costs and damage losses. Some work almost exclusively assisting trade and industry to do busi-

ness with the USDA and to provide them with research and statistical information. Meanwhile, the public must be kept informed in a large variety of ways.

High integrity, scientific information, and eternal vigilance are the watchwords. Not only is the insect invader foiled however he seeks entry, but insecticides, fungicides, and bug killers of all sorts must stand up under analysis and act as warranted. Yes, we work for Agriculture right in New York City. And we're proud of it. (Contributed—and similar contributions from other cities would be welcomed.)

## The PCA's

STARTING FROM BELOW scratch in the tight-money days of 1933, the production credit associations which make loans for farm and ranch production purposes have scratched with good effect. By the end of 1949, 116 of the Nation's 503 PCA's had entirely repaid all the Federal capital advanced to help them get started, and the Government now owns no part of them.

Texas, of course, made an extra effort. All 36 of the short-term credit cooperatives located in the Lone Star State have paid out. The Houston Farm Credit District was first among the 12 to get this job done. The achievements of the paying-out associations were heralded on December 31 by two coast-to-coast broadcasts: A spot, originating in Fort Worth, on the National Farm and Home Hour; then, Claude Mahoney interviewed Governor I. W. Duggan of the Farm Credit Administration over CBS Farm News. Finally, a 3-day celebration, with the Texas associations as hosts, was held in Houston on January 23-25. Guests included production credit folks, farmers, and farm leaders from every part of the country. Production Credit Commissioner C. R. Arnold, of the Washington office, made the principal address.

The PCA's are supervised by the 12 production credit corporations, one in each FCA district. Contrary to fairly widespread belief, the PCA's lend no Government funds. They get cash for lending by discounting their members' notes with the 12 Federal intermediate credit banks, which also are units of FCA. The intermediate credit banks get discount funds by selling debentures, or short-term bonds, to private investors in the big money markets. There, these securities, backed in effect by the short-term credit notes of farmers all over the U. S., sell readily at favorable rates.

The Kewanee, Ill., PCA was the first to



complete repayment of Government capital, back in 1944. All Government stock has been nonvoting from the start, as is stock held by members who had not had production loans from their associations within 2 years. Local guidance of the associations is in the hands of directors elected by active borrower-members, falling within the 2-year limit. Many who have watched the development of the associations forecast that it will not be too long before the remainder have repaid all Government capital. At one time the Federal investment in them totaled more than \$90 million. Repayments have now reached about \$67 million. Capital and reserves have been built up to \$144 million, of which around 16½ percent is Government capital.

## Brief but important

### Timber for sale

In December, Forest Service announced for sale 4½ million cords of pulpwood located in Western Colorado, the largest offering of National Forest timber ever made in continental U. S. For details write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2722.

### New assignment for Birdsall

Dr. Benjamin J. Birdsall of the Technical Collaboration Branch, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, has left this position to become agricultural technician and advisor to a large steamship company with extensive agricultural interests here and in Latin America.

### Egg support prices

On December 21 the USDA announced a support program for eggs in 1950 designed to maintain the national average annual farm price at 37 cents a dozen or approximately 75 percent of modernized parity. More details about this and the background of the action will be found in No. 2750 for which write the editor of *USDA*.

### A visitor from Brazil

The Brazilian Embassy has advised the Department that Dr. Iwar Beckman, Brazil's leading scientist in the field of wheat culture, will visit the U. S. May to July 1950. He expects to go to several of our State agricultural experiment stations. Wheat varieties developed by him have won acceptance and acclaim in Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Peru.

### Conquering canker of cowpeas

Drs. C. L. Lefebvre and Helen S. Sherwin, USDA specialists on forage crop diseases, have been able to transfer resistance to bacterial canker from certain forage varieties of cowpeas to vegetable varieties and to other desirable forage crops. This may stem the tide that appears to have been flowing against the cowpea—really a bean—in recent years when many other comparable crops, including the soybean, snap bean, and lima, have been growing in importance. Total cowpea acreage is less than it was 20 years ago; production about the same. The best source of canker resistance was found in the Iron and Victor forage varieties and the factor has been transferred into the Blackeye type, as well as into susceptible forage varieties such as Chinese Red which are otherwise suitable. It looks like a brighter future for the vegetable type of "Blackeye pea."

## Africa grows tobacco

Africa has trebled production of leaf and plans a further large increase within the next 5 years, in her flue-cured tobacco-growing counties. Consumption of tobacco products in this area and in Egypt, which grows no leaf, is increasing rapidly, but most of this increase is available for export to areas outside of Africa. For more details write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2763.

### Colchicine

According to a letter in *Science* for December 23, 1949, the first study reported on the action of colchicine on mitosis was published by B. Pernice in 1889 (*Sicilia Med.*, 1, 265). This considerably antedates the work reported by A. P. Duston (*Bull. Acad. Roy. Med. Belg.*, 1934, 14, 487) and by F. Lits (*C. R. Soc. Biol.*, 1934, 115, 1421) which soon began to spawn publications on the subject at a rate of 100 annually.

### Tung prices

It has been announced that the 1950 crop of tung nuts will be given price support at 60 percent of parity and that future marketings of the 1949 crop will be supported at \$60 a ton, equivalent to 60 percent of estimated parity. Tung nut price supports are mandatory for 1950 production under the Agricultural Act of 1949. For more details and background write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2748.

### Topcrop

This is a new bush-type snapbean developed by Dr. W. J. Zaunmeyer, in charge of bean and pea breeding for the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. Few vegetables have received such high praise as Topcrop which is a 1950 gold-medal winner among All-American selections. Topcrop is a sister variety to Rival, is a heavy yielder, and is resistant to two important virus diseases, common mosaic and New York 15 mosaic.

### Improving vegetable shipping

Development of improved containers and methods for shipping fresh vegetables by rail is the objective of a new study to be undertaken by the Production and Marketing Administration and the Western Growers Association of Los Angeles. The work will be directed by Dr. R. W. Hoecker, of PMA's Marketing Facilities and Research Branch, and C. B. Moore, secretary-managing-director of the Western Growers Association. This is an RMA contract project.

### Jersey-Sindhi crossbreds

The Bureau of Dairy Industry reported recently on its long-time breeding experiment to develop better cattle for the South. The report celebrated the beginning of the second generation, the first crossbred calves in the U. S. to carry a predominance of Red Sindhi blood having been born. Both show the slight hump over the shoulders and the large ears of the Red Sindhi but resemble the Jerseys in color. For more details write the editor of *USDA*, Washington 25, D. C., and ask for No. 2753.

### Cutler of SCS dies

J. S. Cutler, assistant regional conservator for Region 3, SCS, in Milwaukee, died in that city December 11, after service since 1934. A native of Ohio, he graduated from Michigan State and took his master's in agronomy at Ohio State, where he became an assistant in research and, later, a faculty member. He left that position to supervise field experiments in agronomy at Wooster, working for 5 years in cooperation with the then Bureau of Entomology and Plant Industry, USDA. He was a nationally recognized agronomist.

## Rubber from turpentine

Research Achievement Sheet No. 124 (C), available from Agricultural Research Administration, tells about a new-type high-quality synthetic rubber which is made with a chemical derived from turpentine. The sheet gives all details about this work by the Naval Stores Division of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.

### Mrs. McClung retires

Mrs. Mary A. McClung, printing and publications clerk in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, retired at the end of the year. She joined USDA in 1929 as personal secretary to the then Secretary Arthur M. Hyde. After 4 years in the Office of the Secretary, she transferred to the Bureau of Plant Quarantine which, in 1934, was consolidated into EPQ. She plans to return to her home in Kansas City, Mo.

### Shamrock and potato

An inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine recently found a golden nematode, a serious pest of potatoes, in the soil around the roots of a shamrock entering the country. Failure on his part might have had effects as serious as those from an earlier entry of this pest which has spread to more than 8,000 acres of Long Island potato land. Close check on incoming soil has resulted in quite a number of such interceptions. Eternal vigilance is the motto of our quarantine force.

### Holly orchards

Soil Conservation Service has found that American holly is a first-class soil-holding tree. Holly growing also offers opportunities for some farmers to make profitable use of land too steep for safe cultivation. There is a good market for holly around Christmas and harvesting follows the end of the crop harvest. Holly may well be planted on contour rows 20 to 25 feet apart each way. Helvetia, originally regarded as trash in a 10-acre lot in West Virginia, and Richards, collected from native growth in southern Maryland, are good varieties.

### South Carolina redwood

J. M. Eleazer tells of seeing four large redwood trees growing in South Carolina, mere kids of 50 to 100 years, only 2½ to 4½ feet in diameter and 75 to 100 feet tall. But when they get their growth they may rival California's best. In 1941 Harvard scientists found fossil remains of the "Metasequoia," kin to our Giant Sequoias or Redwoods in California and, in 1945, a Chinese student returned home from Harvard and found such trees growing in the interior. He sent back seed. Harvard grew seedlings. A fellow Jim knows got two of them; one grows now in Barnwell State Park, S. C., and another in the man's own yard. These doings in Barnwell County interest Jim no end. We thought they might interest you, too.

### Modern mold control

A new method of fighting water-borne fungus diseases of pump-fed greenhouse crops in so-called tank agriculture has been suggested by Dr. W. D. McClellan of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. He reported experiments using nine different chemicals added to the nutrient solution intermittently supplied to tomato plants and a number of ornamentals. Wilt once introduced on a single plant rapidly spreads to all plants in the section through which the nutrient solution moves back and forth by pump and gravity between storage tank and branches. A fungus disease like water mold can do the same thing. In distinctly preliminary work a chemical known as 8-hydroxyquinoline benzoate gave the best results on the average for keeping down spores.



## Mr. French retires

Leland S. French, Office of the Solicitor, stationed in Milwaukee, retired December 31 after more than 30 years in USDA, 25 of which he spent in regional offices of Sol.

## REA telephone loan plans

On December 22 the Rural Electrification Administration issued an informative outline of its telephone loan program. If you have not seen this and desire to, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2751.

## E. A. Meyer

"Woody" Meyer, former administrator of the Research and Marketing Act, has become associated with the Richmond-Chase Co., San Jose, Calif., as vice president in charge of the eastern division with headquarters in New York City.

## "I Wanted To Write"

This is a large book by Kenneth Roberts, author of "Northwest Passage" and many other best sellers. It was published in 1949 by Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N. Y., at \$3.50 a copy. It is over 450 pages long, has an index, may prove unreadable to you in the sense of perusing every page, but there is a great deal here of interest to aspiring writers—basic information, sensible caution, sound guidance.

## Do you field people work hard?

How would you know? John Ryan, extension editor for South Dakota, collected statistics for 1 month on the activities of 13 county agents selected at random. They had—en masse, apparently—1,306 office callers, 881 telephone calls, and visited 476 farms, but found time to prepare and send out 80 press releases and 39 circular letters. Divide that by 13, compare your own relative score, and let's hear from you.

## Strategic crop research

On the recommendation of the U. S. Munitions Board funds have been made available to enable the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering to expand its research on four strategic crops—hard (leaf) fibers, castor-beans, canaigre for tanning purposes, and guayule for rubber. B. B. Robinson, A. F. Sievers, L. M. Pultz with headquarters at Tucson, and H. M. Tysdal in California's Salinas Valley, respectively, will direct the projects.

## Electric Christmas

More than half a million rural families celebrated their first electric Christmas last month. So says the Rural Electrification Administration, reporting progress in the rural electrification program. More rural homes than ever had electric lights on their Christmas trees, there having been 4,800,000 electrified farms the Christmas just past as compared with 750,000 at Christmas 1934. Many farmsteads also took advantage of unusual opportunities for effective outdoor lighting schemes with colored globes on one or several trees or buildings.

## Four basic policy statements

Under this heading we recommend: "Where Do We Go From Here?" a speech the Secretary delivered before the Ohio State Grange, December 12 (No. 2648); "1950—Year of Opportunity," a speech he delivered before the Farmers Union Grain Terminal Association, December 13 (No. 2649); Secretary Brannan's statement on "Low-Income Farm Families and Economic Stability," delivered December 15, before the Sub-Committee on Low-Income Families of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report (No. 2675); and his letter to Allan B. Kline, of the American Farm Bureau Federation, December 16 (No. 2695). Requests by number from the editor of *USDA* in writing only.

## Corn acreage

If you want information on 1950 corn acreage allotments, the commercial area, and marketing quotas, write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2801.

## Return of John Baker

John Baker, who was head of USDA's Radio Service and an assistant director of Information 1945-46, and has more recently been with Station WLS in Chicago, has replaced Walter John as chief of the Production and Marketing Administration's Area Information Office in Chicago. Walter John has been called to Washington, D. C., as coordinator of field information, Information Branch, PMA.

## The insects

Willis J. Gertsch, curator of spiders at the American Museum of Natural History, has a new book out called "American Spiders," published by Van Nostrand, of New York City, at \$6.95 a copy. Almost at the same time there appeared "Webs in the Wind," a book on the habits of web-weaving spiders, by Winifred Duncan, published by Ronald and costing \$4.50. Finally, there is a book out on the "Life of William T. Davis," the self-taught Staten Island naturalist, an expert on the so-called 17-year "locust"; it is by Mabel Abbott, appeared from Cornell University Press, and costs \$3.50.

## Rice P. Steddom

The first chief of the Meat Inspection Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, died December 3 in Lebanon, Ohio, aged 85. He was Dr. Rice P. Steddom, a graduate of Ontario Veterinary College and a native of Ohio, who entered service as a BAI inspector at Kansas City, 1897. He was called into the Washington offices in 1904 and, in 1906, became chief of the Inspection Division. He became first chief of the Meat Inspection Division on its establishment in 1912, a position he held until his retirement in December 1934. Much credit was his for the fine reputation of the Division, its high scientific standards, its protection to the public health, and benefits to industry.

## Wild tobacco

Dr. E. E. Clayton, USDA specialist on tobacco breeding, is taming wild tobacco, drastically different from the cultivated species, to supply plant breeders with the genes they are learning to use in arming the commercial crop with hereditary disease-resistance factors. When the cultivated tobacco was used as the female parent and the wild one as the papa the progeny were fertile, but they were not in the reverse of these trials. Disease-resistant tobacco types that are both stable and fertile are now being obtained. As a result of fine-spun shifts brought about in the cellular parts, indications are that cultivated tobacco can be greatly improved in resistance to blue mold, wildfire, blackfire, and black shank.

## USDA men honored in forestry

Dr. Carl Hartley, Division of Forest Pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, is now among the honored 1 percent of the membership of the Society of American Foresters, the "fellows." These are "foresters of outstanding achievement as leaders in responsible directive or distinctive individual work of a fruitful character." The Society has 7,000 members but only 61 fellows. Charles F. Evans, assistant regional forester for Region 8, Forest Service, and Edward N. Munns, chief of the Division of Forest Influences, FS, are also among the worthy 1 percent. Evan Kelley, formerly regional forester, Region 1, FS, and now retired, also was elected a fellow while Charlie Evans was further honored by being elected president of the Society.

## Tobacco insect control

"Experiments with Pyrethrum-Oil Sprays for Control of the Tobacco Moth and the Cigarette Beetle," is the title of a new publication by Joseph N. Tenhet; procure from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

## History of science

The fourth edition (1949) of Sir William Cecil Dampier's "A History of Science" looks rather formidable but is perhaps as brief as any satisfactory history of science could be. The Macmillan Co., New York City, is the American publisher; it is priced at \$2.95 a copy.

## Better human relations

We have about 75 copies of a brief reprint from the journal "Personnel" entitled "The 10 Basic Principles of Sound Human Relations," by E. H. Van Deiden. If interested in a simple code designed to make friends of employees write for a copy to the editor of *USDA*.

## Rural medical care

"Medical Care for Country Folk," an address delivered last December before the fourth-year students of the Virginia Medical School, by Dr. W. E. Garnett, rural sociologist at the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, Blacksburg, Va., might prove of interest to you. If you'd like a copy write the experiment station or VPI and ask for Rural Sociology Report No. 75, December 1949.

## Luster in cotton textiles

A new study has been launched on improving the luster or sheen of cotton fabrics. It is a Research and Marketing Act project to be undertaken by the Harris Research Laboratories under sponsorship of the Southern Regional Research Laboratory, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. For more details write the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 2769.

## Better elms

Scientists of the USDA and the Missouri and Ohio Agricultural Experiment Stations report considerable success in the rapid propagation of elm strains resistant to Dutch elm disease and the phloem necrosis virus. The ends of the leaf-bud cuttings were dipped in powdered indolebutyric acid, which regulates root growth, before setting them out in the rooting medium under a constant water mist for 2 or 3 weeks. Hitherto such elms have proved extremely difficult to root.

## Antibiotics for food preservation

The Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry has made its first announcement on research in the preservation of food by the use of antibiotics. Canned vegetables were sterilized by adding a very small quantity of antibiotic—usually subtilin, a discovery of the Western Regional Research Laboratory—and then giving the sealed cans a relatively mild heat treatment. The procedure proved as effective for destroying bacteria and other food-spoiling organisms as conventional canning methods which require severe cooking. For more details write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2765.

## January 30, 1950 Vol. IX, No. 3

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FEB 28 1950

# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR FEBRUARY 13, 1950

## Words again

"WORDS IN OUR TIME" was the title of a recent article by Ivor Brown in the journal of the National Book League of London. He cited the undeclared warfare today between the long and the short word, the bureaucrats fostering an increasingly pompous official language and the newspaper headlines demanding shorter and shorter terms. Both tendencies breed absurdities. The headline is often breathless, imaginative, or amusing; the language of the bureaucrat and the social scientists is ordinarily plethoric and soporific. When the simple statement "experts are being rushed to slash costs" becomes "the appropriation authorities are proceeding with all possible expedition to visit the organizational localities in order to explore all the avenues whereby a diminution of expenditure may be achieved," you just know who's writing.

As Mr. Brown says, the continuous use of language in a state of perpetual hypertension is to be decried. Words well-adapted to headline use are often divested of their true meaning and value. Thus "thrill" has become a word of six letters that has lost its original impact almost altogether. Impoverishment of meaning reduces popular writers to such devices as "superthrill" or "absolutely super." While the verbal short cut is iniquitous, little good can be said about turgid officialese. Thus "directive", which originally meant a form of general orders outlining the features of tactics for a proposed operation or series of operations, has become you-know-what all too well—or do you any more? Any order at all seems to demand the use of this pompous noun.

Mr. Brown suggests that pompous writing brings reassurance "to a person conscious of his own defects and apprehensive about the security of his job." Could be. A man who calls food, "units of nutritional intake", may be regarded as indispensable and meriting a promotion. Fear of giving offense may lead another to substitute "the underprivileged members of the lower-income brackets" for "the poor." Yet "if privilege is a wrong thing and ought not to exist in our society, then why complain that anybody lacks this vicious article! One might as well describe a sober man as being underintoxicated." But there is hope. For Mr. Brown reflects that so far few if any people talk either like headlines or like bureaucratic directives.

## Extension summer schools

WITH THE endorsement of the national county extension worker's associations, Epsilon Sigma Phi, the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, and sponsored by the extension directors in the respective regions, four 3-week summer schools for Cooperative Extension Service personnel have been arranged for next summer. They are as follows:

*Northeast:* Cornell University, July 17 through August 4; contact L. D. Kelsey, Roberts Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. *Central:* University of Wisconsin, June 12 through 30; contact V. E. Kivlin, associate dean, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6, Wis. *West:* Colorado A & M College, First session—June 19 through July 7; second session—July 17 through August 4; contact F. A. Anderson, director of extension, Colorado A & M College, Fort Collins, Colo. *South:* University of Arkansas, July 17 through August 4; contact Lippert S. Ellis, director of extension, College of Agriculture, Fayetteville, Ark.

## '49 big TV year

THE MOST phenomenal growth of any industry in one year was chalked up by television during 1949. Starting with 49 stations on the air and 1.2 million receivers in use, the year saw the number of stations double, and the number of sets more than treble itself. At year's end, reliable sources estimated about 4 million sets to be in operation, and 98 stations had taken to the television air waves in 58 cities. Production of receivers had reached a half-million-per-month rate, with facilities for new production still expanding.

Forecasts for 1950 look toward another trebling of sets in use, say about 12 million estimated in operation by the end of this year. The number of stations on the air will not increase measurably, because of the freeze in television broadcast permits. Only about a dozen presently authorized stations remain to be finished and put into operation.

## Plants waste water

SALT CEDAR is cited by Geological Survey as a prime water-waster. The Survey believes that more water than flows down the Colorado River is wasted into western skies by largely useless vegetation, among which salt cedar is outstanding. It is estimated that from 20 to 25 million acre-feet of water is wasted annually by such plants and the annual run-off of the Colorado is only around 16 million acre-feet a year. The plants remove the water from the soil with their roots and then exhale it through their leaves into the atmosphere. Such wastage occurs on 15 million acres.

These are covered in the main with salt cedar, a foreign importation that came from the Mediterranean countries early this century, cottonwood, willow, and baccharis. Salt cedar began to grow wild in Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico and is now crowding out the lesser water-wasting trees and brush. As more of it grows less water remains to flow underground for later irrigation use. The Survey found by intensive studies in Arizona that enough water was being wasted in 9,300 acres of land to irrigate 9,000 acres of farm land. Removal of the brush would be very expensive but it would be possible to sink wells and pump the underground water out for irrigation use elsewhere before the plants wasted it.

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## WORDS YOU MAY MISUSE

Do you commonly or occasionally misuse words that look a good deal alike—accept and except, averse and adverse, canvas and canvass, adopt, adapt, and adept, and so on, and on. If so, try the new processed pamphlet: "What's Your Score on the Use of Commonly Misused Words—" which was developed by a committee in BAE and the Division of Training in Pers. *Employees interested in getting copies of this useful item please write or phone directly to their own agency personnel or training officers.*

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National 4-H Club Week: March 4 to 12.



## Foreign agriculture

WE HAVE previously remarked about the small part foreign agriculture played in the USDA of the old days, and how interest in it has grown inevitably with our national projection into leadership in world affairs. On January 10 it was our privilege to attend some of the meetings of a Quarterly Extension Staff Conference where Fred J. Rossiter, associate director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, spoke on problems involved in the international distribution of food, and Duncan Wall, director of information for the Food and Agriculture Organization reported on the fifth International FAO Conference. Later R. E. Moore of FAR addressed himself to "Point-4 Horizons in 1950," and Dillon Myer, formerly of USDA, and now president of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs explained the Institute's various programs. Incidentally, Extension always does a fine job of keeping itself currently informed by way of such conferences.

On the same day, James O. Howard, who handles information for FAR, invited us to a luncheon for agricultural representatives from countries outside the U. S. which was attended by a good sprinkling also of USDA's Washington, D. C., officialdom. It was a get-acquainted get-together that may become an annual institution. Present and standing for applause were J. U. Gar-side and P. F. Magee, commercial counselor and commercial attaché, respectively, for Australia; Roger Coustry, agricultural attaché for Belgium; A. H. Knudsen, agricultural counselor for Denmark; Dr. A. A. Moursi, agricultural attaché for Egypt; A. N. Duckham and M. W. Taylor, counselor and assistant agricultural attaché, respectively, for Great Britain; Don Victor Aguilar, agricultural attaché for Guatemala; Don Gonzalo Andrade, assistant agricultural attaché for Mexico; H. J. van Kretschmar van Veen, agricultural attaché for the Netherlands; Anders Fjelstad, agricultural counselor for Norway; Reese Davies, Don Miguel Echegaray, and Gregor Bendz, agricultural attachés for Union of South Africa, Spain, and Sweden, respectively, don Miguel being the "dean" of the agricultural diplomatic corps.

Also present were Merrill W. Abbey, our agricultural attaché for the Republic of the Philippines; Robert A. Brand, our assistant agricultural attaché at Rome, Italy, soon to be assigned to Germany; and H. W. Spielman, our agri-

## Self-service meat

A YEAR AGO only 400 retail stores in the Nation featured self-service meat departments. Now more than 1,200 of them do so. This is partly because you—and you, and also you—took up the butcher's time discussing the cut of meat you wanted, and that costs the store 3 cents a minute. So part of the answer is to hide the butcher away from you and your conversation and let him cut meat. The cost of cutting, wrapping, and preparing meat for the self-service counter comes to about 4.5 cents a pound or 5.2 cents a package. That's better. But how do you like it?

Good old USDA considered that too in a recent survey of 97 stores made by Production and Marketing Administration. Most of you like the idea of selecting pre-cut, prewrapped meat from the self-service counter. It does away with waiting in line at the meat counter after you take a number; it provides a larger selection of meat; it makes it easier to get just the kind and quantity of meat required to fit snugly into your family budget. Yet some shoppers still like to talk to the butcher and see him cut the meat, so many stores keep a display butcher on tap to cater to such fastidious persons. Under self-service the sales of steaks and roasts of beef, poultry, and specialty items have increased; those of smoked ham, seafoods, and pork roasts have declined. Ninety-five out of the 97 stores reported greater meat sales under the new system, food buyers being attracted by the novel method.

In stores selling relatively large quantities of meat unskilled labor costs increase faster than those for skilled labor. This means that the meat-cutter's time is used more efficiently than when he is conversing with you. He is also relieved of wrapping and sealing. As you have observed, the meat is mostly packaged in transparent film, but no such wrapping has yet proved ideal. All the 97 stores surveyed would like improved wrapping materials.

cultural attaché at Karachi, Pakistan. The occasion was informal and convivial. Those present freely twitted one another while making known the types and kinds of information they most needed and appreciated. Those from foreign lands seemed to agree that the USDA was about tops in services it rendered them. It was a delightful occasion presaging, may we hope, a better and a permanent-ly peaceful world?

## Bargain counter magic

THE SIMPLE principle of flannel adhering to flannel, or sandpaper sticking to flannel, has provided television with an economical way of creating interest in otherwise "dull" material. The Radio and Television Service, USDA, reports they have found an old visual standby of Department workers—the flannelgraph—to be most useful in television programs.

The flannelgraph is nothing more than a piece of flannel stretched tightly over a piece of plywood or other rigid material, on which "cut-outs"—artist's symbols, lettering, etc.—may be placed while a program is in progress. These vari-colored cut-outs are made of stiff cardboard backed by tiny strips of sandpaper. When casually placed on the face of the board, they adhere to it like a vagrant—with no visible means of support. In this manner, charts, maps, graphs, and other composite visuals may be built before the camera, utilizing the motion and curiosity to catch and hold audience attention.

## Boston's market

WELL, TIMES CHANGE. Two centuries ago the Founding Fathers thundered the message of liberty in Faneuil Hall, Boston, and then it became a market. It was even when Paul Revere saw the lights in Old North Church. Washington was there when a young man, long before the Boston Tea Party. Today Faneuil Hall is still the nub of Boston's produce marketing, though other buildings in the same and other Boston localities also serve as markets. But the years have hemmed the hall and its surroundings in with tall buildings; motor-trucks replacing horse-drawn vehicles have created great traffic congestion. Increasing population in the Boston area puts heavy pressure upon marketing facilities which have become woefully inadequate.

The marketing trade, consumers, agricultural leaders, and the City of Boston have long since realized the serious shortcomings of their markets. But it has been difficult for them to agree on what buildings and facilities are needed and where the market should be located. A year or so ago the Production and Marketing Administration was asked to study Boston's marketing system and make recommendations. The preliminary findings were presented to the various trade, farm, city, and Commonwealth interests in June 1949. They show that an adequate Boston market would re-



quire over 400 wholesale stores and more than 100 acres of land for them, plus team and horse tracks, farmers' and truckers' facilities, parking space, and related market needs. Nine potential market sites were analyzed, on any three or four of which a market might be built.

The site that could be expected most nearly to meet all needs is comprised of 180 acres east of the intersection of Southhampton and Albany Streets, including the Fort Point Channel—when filled. The Massachusetts Market Authority is determining which site can be developed. The proposed market is so designed that produce can be brought directly to the wholesale stores by either truck or rail with minimum physical handling. Wide streets and ample parking space would help eliminate the traffic congestion which has so long handicapped Boston produce marketing. The proposed market would permit speedier handling with less damage and deterioration and at lower costs.

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### WORK WITHOUT SQUABBLES

We still have a couple of hundred copies of the fine talk by Charles T. Estes, entitled "Can We Learn To Live Together—America's No. 1 Problem." If you want to know how people can work together without squabbles and tears, *write* for a copy to the editor of *USDA*; first come first served.

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## Brief but important

### Egg quality

"Deterioration of Egg Quality During Marketing," is PA79, prepared in Production and Marketing Administration, and available from PMA Information Branch.

### Planting trees

Some 13,000 acres of barren land in National Forests of West Virginia can be reforested under a new 15-year Forest Service program authorized by the Anderson-Mansfield Act. FS has already reforested 14,297 acres in West Virginia, much of the planting stock having been derived from its 60-acre nursery near Parsons, W. Va.

### Weiss heads soybean work

Dr. Martin G. Weiss, a native of Iowa and a graduate of Iowa State, now heads soybean investigations for PISAE, replacing William J. Morse who recently retired. Dr. Weiss began research on soybeans for USDA in 1936, and played an important part in the development of the Adams and Hawkeye varieties. Until 1942 he was stationed with the U. S. Regional Soybean Laboratory at Ames, Iowa, but he took military leave between 1942 and 1945, rose to lieutenant colonel and was recently promoted to colonel of the Reserves. For the past 4 years he has served as research professor and professor of farm crops at Iowa State, and has been in charge of breeding experiments on brome-grass, orchard grass, red canary grass, and birdsfoot trefoil, while maintaining an active interest in soybean breeding.

### Paul F. Kiesler

Mr. Kiesler, statistician in Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and with USDA for 16 years, died January 13, aged 51.

### Thom elected

Dr. Charles Thom, Jeffersonville, N. Y., former USDA staff member, has been elected the first president of the newly formed Society of Industrial Microbiologists.

### Cotton high in fiber strength

If interested in cottons with new properties and high fiber strength and comparing favorably with synthetic fibers, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 115.

### Hare retires

Henry B. Hare, Atlanta Regional Office of the Solicitor, has retired after 32 years of service. A graduate of Georgetown University Law School, he will engage in the practice of law at his home, Saluda, S. C.

### Clarence A. Reed

Mr. Reed, who retired from Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering in 1947 after 40 years of service, died January 14, aged 69. He entered USDA in 1907 and was widely known for his pioneering work on the culture and improvement of nut varieties.

### Suggestion Awards Board

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1235, Revision 1, named the following as the Suggestion Awards Board: W. A. Minor, assistant to the Secretary, chairman; J. E. Halligan, FHA; E. W. Loveridge, FS; F. H. Spencer, ARA; R. T. Beall, REA; G. E. Tichenor, PMA; N. R. Bear, Pers; E. E. Kriegesman, Pers, executive secretary.

### Flue-cured tobacco

Three new disease-resistant flue-cured tobacco varieties have been released: Dixie Bright 27, 101, and 102, developed by scientists in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 114.

### Yale pioneers

Yale University, in cooperation with the Conservation Foundation, has announced a new course in the conservation of renewable natural resources in charge of Prof. Paul B. Sears, author of "Deserts on the March," who comes from Oberlin College where he has been professor of botany since 1938, following service in the same capacity at University of Oklahoma beginning 1927.

### A Canadian sees a new light

An excerpt from the Monthly Report of Euclide Fugere, a Soil Conservation Service trainee from Quebec Province, Canada: "Before coming to the U. S., I did not think about soil conservation in the same way as now. Then, it was for me just a new science by the others. Now, it is a rather directing idea that coordinates several sciences to influence men and things in order to let nature do her work."

### Farm trend?

New York City newspapers scent an alarming trend in the case of the upstate farmer who sold one of his best dairy cows to invest \$900 as a backer of the musical comedy, "Kiss Me, Kate," which sum he quickly recouped plus \$1,000 profit. Is Variety to replace the Farmer's Almanac and will the men in the fields now discuss plays rather than crops, royalties rather than harvests? Will the office of Rogers and Hammerstein replace the USDA in the affections of the farmer?

### Forage crop bulletin

New Miscellaneous Publication No. 702 is entitled "Will More Forage Pay?", runs 90 pages, was prepared in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and is packed with facts on the subject.

### Missouri Basin committee

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1248, January 12, announced the appointment of a Missouri River Basin USDA Field Committee; procure copies from the Secretary's Records Section, P&O, Ext. 3337.

### Adjusting to mechanization

In talking before the Tuskegee Annual Farmers Conference, January 18, Secretary Brannan addressed himself to the problem of how Cotton Belt farmers can adjust to farm mechanization. For copies of this talk *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 132.

### Donaldson transfers

Linwood E. Donaldson, associate chief of the Records Administration Division, Office of Plant and Operations, transferred recently to the General Services Administration where he assumed responsibility for its communications and records management. He has served in USDA in various capacities for more than 30 years. We regret his leaving; we acclaim his promotion.

### Potato flour

Research Achievement Sheet No. 125 (C), available from the Agricultural Research Administration, tells about the work the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, did in getting the bugs out of potato-flour production by the use of idle distillery equipment during 1948-49. All relevant details regarding this project are summarized in the sheet.

### Want a log of turkey?

Well, call it turkey sausage if you'd rather. Anyway the Norbest Turkey Growers Association, a federated marketing cooperative that handles turkeys for 22 member associations in 12 States, is getting out what it calls Tur-King, boned rolls or logs of solid turkey meat. They are especially suitable for eating places where refrigerator space is at a premium. The log is encased in aluminum foil in which it may even be cooked in a specially designed roaster. Read all about it, as the newsboys say, in News for Farmer Cooperatives, January 1950, available from Farm Credit Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Tastes swell—it says there.

### Annual reports

The annual report for 1949 of Ralph S. Roberts, Director of Finance, carries a well-deserved "In Memoriam" tribute to the late William A. Jump on the inside front cover. \* \* \* The report of Ralph R. Shaw, Librarian, cites as two outstanding achievements "the acceptance of the Rapid Selector and the provision of library service to the Economic Cooperation Administration." The Rapid Selector, the first practical machine using electronic principles to organize knowledge, and in the development of which Mr. Shaw had a big hand, was delivered to the Library February 7, 1949 and, after intensive tests, was accepted June 23, 1949. \* \* \* In case you did not know, Ralph S. Trigg submits a separate report as president of the Commodity Credit Corporation and Dr. P. V. Cardon a separate one on activities under the Research and Marketing Act. They are, respectively, the administrators of PMA and ARA.



## Eisenhower to Penn State

Milton Eisenhower, USDA's Director of Information some years ago and since then in OWI and president of Kansas State College, has been elected president of Penn State College.

## Not REA but PISAE

M. P. No. 689, "Your Farmhouse Heating," is a publication originating in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, and not in Rural Electrification Administration as erroneously stated in *USDA* for January 16.

## Lifting without strain

"Teach Them to LIFT" is a booklet available from the Bureau of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, or, for 10 cents, from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. It is an illustrated guide to lifting heavy weights without strain or undue fatigue. Safe lifting techniques are as good for farmers as for industrial workers. We just thought some of you might like to get copies of the pamphlet and spread the gospel.

## Farm land ownership

Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued a new Miscellaneous Publication No. 699 called "Farm Land Ownership in the United States." It is chiefly concerned with the 975 million acres of farm land held by individuals, or 85 percent of the total; 6 percent is held by corporations, 6 by Federal, State, or other governmental units, and 3 percent is in Indian lands. You will find in the publication many other interesting facts regarding farm land ownership. Get it from the Division of Economic Information, BAE.

## Hog not on ice

Work of Agricultural Research Administration engineers at the California Agricultural Experiment Station shows that pigs weighing under 150 pounds are more comfortable at a given high temperature than those weighing more. Food consumption decreases as the air temperature is raised from 40° F. to 100°. Hogs weighing 166 to 260 pounds gained weight most rapidly at about 60° F.; those weighing 70 to 144 pounds gained most rapidly at 75°. The quantity of food required to make 100 pounds of gain was lowest when the rate of gain was highest. Efficiency in food utilization declined both above and below the most favorable temperature. Water consumption varied with temperature also. All this work looks toward providing optimum ventilation systems for pig houses. For more detail write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 48.

## Blaisdell honored

Fred W. Blaisdell, Research Project Supervisor for the Soil Conservation Service at the Saint Anthony Falls Hydraulic Laboratory, University of Minnesota, is the first recipient of the James W. Rickey Medal awarded by the American Society of Civil Engineers. The medal, presented at the Society's annual meeting in New York City in January, was awarded for Mr. Blaisdell's paper, "Development and Hydraulic Design, Saint Anthony Falls Stilling Basin." When water flowing at high speed is directed into the Saint Anthony Falls stilling basin, it emerges slowly with its destructive power removed. The results of this generalized research, as it is called, can be used in highway, irrigation, flood-control, and water-power works, as well as in the soil and water conservation work for which it was developed. Mr. Blaisdell's career has been devoted entirely to hydraulic research.

## Burgess assists Popham

Emery D. Burgess has been appointed assistant to Dr. W. L. Popham, assistant chief in charge of control operations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

## Statistical lab report

The 1948-49 Annual Report of the Statistical Laboratory, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, is ready for distribution; if you want a copy write there. Believe it or not, the report is interesting and readable.

## Rural telephones

If interested in the Rural Electrification Administration's telephone program get from REA or the Office of Information PA-83, December 1949, a printed pamphlet entitled "The Rural Telephone Loan Program."

## Don't crowd hens

Poultry experts say that hens need from 3 to 4 square feet of floor space each. If you don't give them that much they will usually start to die off and that's expensive, so don't crowd 'em.

## Butter grades

Do you know your butter grades? If not, and if you want to, get "Know Your Butter Grades," a folder recently issued by Production and Marketing Administration. We told in *USDA* for January 16 how to get printed publications.

## Director Mowry retired

Director Harold Mowry of the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station has retired. He began his career with the station in October 1922 as assistant horticulturist, became its assistant director in 1933, and director in 1943.

## Bancroft at Statistical Lab

Dr. Theodore A. Bancroft has rejoined the staff of the Statistical Laboratory, Ames, Iowa. He will serve as associate professor and consulting statistician. Formerly director of the Statistical Laboratory at API, Auburn, Ala., before that he was assistant professor of mathematics at Iowa State.

## Credit for farmhouse improvements

New Miscellaneous Publication No. 701 is entitled "Using Credit to Finance Farmhouse Improvements" and is by Lucile W. Reynolds, Agricultural Research Administration, with the assistance of Roy J. Burroughs, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and James L. Robinson, Farm Credit Administration.

## Caribbean dairy study

A new Research and Marketing Act project is a study of present and potential markets for our dairy products in the Caribbean area. It will be carried on by Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations to evaluate long-term marketing prospects and attempt solution of current marketing problems. George H. Day leaves on the assignment early in February. For more details write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 29.

## Personal note

It doesn't help much to point out typographical errors in *USDA* to us, as so many of you do with shy anonymity. Immediately an issue comes from the press the typographical errors pop out and hit the editor square in both eyes. But if you find mistakes of fact in *USDA* any time, please let us know at once. For your information Miss Florence Arden who formerly assisted on *USDA* has transferred to Motion Picture Service; Miss Lois Olson replaced her.

## Potato grades

Although consumer grades for potatoes were announced by USDA in December 1947, potatoes were marketed by these grades only this season when some Maine potato growers and shippers began packing and shipping their product in accord with the system. You will find details in No. 35 for which write Press Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Case for insecticides

We have a statement made January 17 by Assistant Chief F. C. Bishopp, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, on the necessity for using insecticides in the commercial production of fresh fruits and vegetables. It is filled with relevant facts on the safe use of insecticides. To get a copy of it and other similar statements write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 144.

## New bulletins

Following the instructions for getting printed publications given in *USDA* for January 16 some of you might like to get: "Men's Preferences Among Selected Clothing Items," Miscellaneous Publication No. 706, a companion to the earlier M. P. No. 614, "Women's Preferences Among Selected Textile Products," both prepared in BAE. \* \* \* "Changes in American Farming," M. P. No. 707 by Sherman E. Johnson of BAE. \* \* \* "Research at Work from Farm to You, Some Typical Examples of Work Under the Research and Marketing Act."

## You can't tell the difference

Did you know that most consumers are unable to detect taste differences when orange and grapefruit juices are blended in various proportions? They find blends containing from 40 up to 60 percent of orange juice equally acceptable. More than half the consumers surveyed in this Research and Marketing Act project carried on by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Florida Citrus Commission, used the canned juices either straight or in blends, though orange juice was the universal favorite as compared with grapefruit juice or the blends.

## New PMA branch

Production and Marketing Administration recently established a new Marketing and Facilities Research Branch which combines most of the former functions of the Marketing Research and Marketing Facilities Branches. W. C. Crow is director of the new branch which conducts marketing research and development work on terminal, concentration, and secondary markets; and on storage, transportation (except work relating to freight rates), and physical handling, packaging, wholesaling, and retailing of agricultural products. The Transportation Rates and Services Division, Cold Storage Market News Service, and work on transportation and storage shortages, formerly in the Marketing Facilities Branch, have been transferred to the Transportation and Warehousing Branch, directed by M. J. Hudtloff.

February 13, 1950

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR FEBRUARY 27, 1950

## CEA

THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE AUTHORITY of USDA regulates trading in "futures"—wheat futures, corn futures, cotton futures, and many others covered by the Commodity Exchange Act. Under this law the CEA supervises futures trading on 18 commodity exchanges. Dollar value of such trading in 1948-49 was 33 billions. The largest exchanges are the Chicago Board of Trade, the Kansas City Board of Trade, the Minneapolis Grain Exchange, and the New York and New Orleans cotton exchanges.

Futures markets for grains and cotton date from the sixties and seventies. With the advantages credited to agricultural marketing from futures trading came also the price manipulations, market corners, and "sudden or unreasonable" price fluctuations referred to in the Commodity Exchange Act. First effort to exercise Federal authority over the exchanges was in 1884, when Representative Seaborn Reese of Georgia introduced a bill in the 48th Congress. Some 200 bills and 38 years later the Grain Futures Act of 1922 became law, and the Grain Futures Administration, first predecessor of the CEA, began its work. Amendments of 1936 strengthened the original legislation, brought in other commodities, and changed the short title of the law to Commodity Exchange Act.

In administering the act, the CEA compiles and releases each day the volume of trading and "open contracts" in the regulated futures markets; keeps track of the operations of all "large traders" in commodity futures (the daily average of such traders was 629 in 1948-49); enforces limits on speculative trading in grain and cotton futures; and requires annual registration of brokerage firms and exchange floor brokers. From the investigations and other enforcement activities of the CEA come the evidence on violations of the act, the "complaints" against abusive futures-market practices issued by the Secretary, the hearings and legal proceedings, and the sanctions which may follow—suspension of brokers' registrations, denial of trading privileges, or the penalties resulting from criminal proceedings.

### Big round word

Your attention is called to a poem by Joseph Addison Alexander (1800-1860) called "The Power of Short Words." You can find it in Swinton's Fifth Reader (1890)—if you can find that. It opens: "Think not that strength lies in the big round word, or that the brief and plain must needs be weak. To whom can this be true who once has heard the cry for help, the tongue that all must speak when want or woe or fear is in the throat." You take it up from there.

## The safflower

THE SAFFLOWER is a thistlelike plant with orange-colored blossoms that has grown for thousands of years in India, Iran, and Egypt. The dried flowers of the plant have been used since ancient times both for dyeing fabrics and in therapy. The plant seed yield a two-purpose oil, but there was too little of it until recent breeding research produced improved varieties containing half as much oil again. The oil is edible; it is also a drying oil, hence useful in paints and varnishes. Although safflower has been grown in the U. S. since 1925, it has received little attention because of its low oil content and the inefficient methods of extracting such oil as was there.

Now safflower has a future. Not only has the oil content been stepped up in new varieties but methods of extracting the oil have been improved. Better planting and harvesting machines have been developed. Safflower grows well on the Great Plains where wheat is the principal crop and it can be planted with an ordinary grain drill and harvested by wheat combines with slight adjustments. Because safflower is planted at a different time from wheat and is harvested later, growing it enables the farmer to make more efficient use of his machines. Finally, the seed offer good protein feed for cattle after the oil is extracted. Several companies are processing oil from the 1949 crops. Any day now you may meet safflower oil in a paint or, in its more refined form, in a salad or as used for cooking.

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### Home Demonstration Week

That's April 29 to May 6 this year. Mark your calendar. Extension has long weeks.

### Tobacco specialists

If interested in the studies recommended by the Tobacco Advisory Committee to be made under the Research and Marketing Act, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 213.

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## Marry a mechanic, men

THESE DAYS, say our USDA household-equipment specialists, the man who fails to be sure that his wife is a good mechanic may not only be required to pay a lot of repair bills but may be reduced to having to fix household appliances himself—and then there is a riot. Today the little woman is more truly the household foreman than ever. She is chief engineer. The more she knows about electricity, plumbing, heating, and mechanics the better. It might even be well to send her off for a course in these subjects if she is ignorant of them, before you turn her loose with a lot of expensive vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, automatic washers, electric mixers, dishwashers, ironers, and so on.

Does she stand and scream when a drain clogs up? If so, you haven't married the right kind of woman, bud. She should know what to do and do it expertly, not telephone you at the office 14 miles away and weep into the phone. Does she use her household equipment economically and efficiently? Is she expert enough to detect a knock or a strange noise that means trouble? Is she mechanic enough to purchase modern household equipment wisely? Can she make emergency repairs, change an electric fuse, open a clogged sink drain, patch an electric cord or plug? Ask her all this before you propose. Manufacturers have tried to make household gadgets foolproof, though most husbands can break them with ease. But if you have a good household mechanic for a wife you're safe. And USDA has some mighty fine publications on the selection, care, placement, and utilization of household equipment, too.

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### Gettysburg Address

The Literary Supplement of the London Times for May 6, 1949, commended this less-than-300-word address by Lincoln as having majesty, simplicity, and generosity of spirit, though composed of small household words, saying also: "It is difficult to think of an individual speech in English history comparable with the Gettysburg Address."



## Cary retires

C. A. CARY has retired from the Bureau of Dairy Industry after service in it and its predecessor agencies since 1917. He has headed the Division of Nutrition and Physiology, BDI, since 1940. A native of Wisconsin, Cary served in the Spanish-American War and graduated from the University of Chicago, doing all but the very final work for his Ph. D. there, a degree family obligations prevented him from taking. He taught at the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery and at the Chicago College of Dental Surgery before entering the Dairy Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, which later became BDI.

Here Cary did outstanding work on milk secretion, the nutrition of dairy cows, and the nutritive value of milk and milk products. He was chairman of the committee organized in 1941 to make a Nation-wide survey of butter as a source of vitamin A in the diet. His achievement in dairy nutrition research brought him the Borden Award in 1948. In 1949 he won a Distinguished Service Award for his identification of nutrient X in milk and elsewhere as the newly discovered vitamin B<sub>12</sub>. He has written 46 articles and bulletins and 10 review articles or chapters for various publications. He is one of the Nation's outstanding pioneers in dairy nutrition research.

## Crunchy rice curls

A NEW SNACK FOOD, "Rice Curls," nice for nibbling with appetizers, beverages, and salads, has been developed by our Western Regional Research Laboratory in Albany, Calif. The new product, which can be served like potato chips or corn chips, offers a promising commercial outlet for rice, especially the broken kernels which have a limited market. Samples of the crisp, golden-brown curls were distributed to members of the Association of Southern Agricultural Workers at their annual meeting in Biloxi, Miss., on February 10, by Frank Teuton, head of the Information Division, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.

To make Rice Curls, ground rice is mixed with hot water to form a thick paste, which is forced through small, round openings in standard extrusion equipment. The resulting "curls" are cut to about 3-inch lengths, fried in vegetable oil, salted, and packaged. This attractive new food specialty was developed by R. L. Roberts, E. B. Kester,

## Calves sans whole milk

IN THE SUMMER of 1910 the editor of *USDA*, having just graduated from what is now Maryland University, went to work for the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. He undertook "research," his assignment being to devise liquid nourishment for young calves that could be used in lieu of whole or skim milk. He compounded several liquids which had the desired nutritive properties on chemical analysis, but the calves had too much sense to touch them. This was a dreary, dismal, melancholy business at best, so we try to forget it. But Henry T. Converse, Bureau of Dairy Industry, has just shown that dairy calves can be raised successfully from birth without using any salable whole milk, and with limited skim milk supplemented with cod-liver oil or some other source of vitamin A.

Converse has been feeding calves experimentally for 20 years. He concludes that they are often fed more milk than they actually need for proper growth and development. Traditional feeding procedure is colostrum for 2 or 3 days, whole milk for 2 to 4 weeks, skim milk gradually substituted for whole over about 10 days, then skim milk until 6 to 8 months of age—say 550 pounds of whole and 2,900 pounds of skim all-told. Converse cuts that to 280-460 pounds of skim milk and *no whole milk at all*. He feeds colostrum for 3 days, then changes directly to skim milk supplemented with vitamin A—carotene in oil, 7 ounces of grated carrots, or 2-4 teaspoons of cod-liver oil daily. He uses no dried milk, dried blood, or other animal protein supplement. He weans Holstein calves at 30-60 and Jerseys at 45-60 days of age. The animals get leafy, fine-stemmed hay and a palatable, high-protein-grain ration at 10 to 12 days of age.

The system works. The total feed needed by Holsteins to 1 year of age is 200-400 pounds of skim milk, 475-550 of grain, and 2,800-3,500 of hay; by Jerseys 350-450 pounds of skim milk, 450-550 of grain, and 2,000-2,500 of hay. Those obstinate and melancholy calves we tormented in 1910 were hoping for a Converse even then. No wonder!

and D. F. Houston as one phase of a Research and Marketing Act project on rice utilization. For more details write the editor of *USDA* and ask for press release No. 305, or ask the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry for a copy of AIC-258.

## Brief but important

### Study of European co-ops

Glenn F. Riddell, marketing specialist, is in Europe continuing the first-hand study of European cooperatives begun a year ago by John H. Heckman of Farm Credit Administration. The project is sponsored jointly by FCA and the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations under the Research and Marketing Act.

### Agricultural cooperation

Farm Credit Administration has revised its Circular A-23, "Publications on Agricultural Cooperation." It lists publications on cooperation in general, cooperative credit, marketing, and purchasing, and farmers' cooperative business services. Procure from Director of Information and Extension, FCA, Washington 25, D. C.

### "Commodity Futures Statistics"

This is the title of new Statistical Bulletin No. 84, from Commodity Exchange Authority. If you want the figures on futures-market activity, prices, and so on, for the year ended June 30, 1949, and trends in hedging and speculative trading in wheat, corn, cotton, and 13 other futures-trading commodities during that period, write CEA for this bulletin. Not recommended bedside reading. You have to be wide awake.

### Tobacco-marketing study

The purchase policies of the major tobacco companies in buying burley and flue-cured, and the effects of these policies on farmers, consumers, and manufacturers, are included in a new Research and Marketing Act study to be made by the Institute of Research and Training in the Social Sciences, Vanderbilt University, under contract with USDA, and to be directed by Prof. William H. Nicholls of the University.

### Olsen promoted

C. J. Olsen, a native of Utah and a graduate of Utah State, who has been with Forest Service since 1919, has become regional forester at Ogden, Utah, following the untimely death, January 13, of William "Ben" Rice. Mr. Olsen has for the past decade been assistant regional forester in charge of informational and educational activities at Ogden. He has had rich and varied experience well fitting him for his new position.

### Hoffmann in EPQ

Dr. Clarence H. Hoffmann, a native of Kansas who took his B. S. and M. S. at University of Kansas and his Ph. D. at University of Minnesota, has been appointed to work closely with Assistant Chief Dr. F. C. Bishopp of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Associated since 1935 with certain phases of forest insect research carried on by EPQ, Dr. Hoffmann has been at the Bureau's Forest Insect Laboratory, Beltsville, Md., for the past 5 years.

### New Forestry board

A National Forest Advisory Board of Appeals has been established by order of the Secretary to advise on appeals to him from decisions of the chief of Forest Service involving the public use of the National Forests or other lands administered by FS. The Board will consist of five USDA employees selected from agencies other than FS. Do not confuse this Board with the National Forest Board of Review, established in 1948, composed of private citizens, to advise the Secretary on questions of general policy and the solution of major problems in National Forest administration.



## Vermont farmers share ACP costs

Vermont farmers have contributed practically dollar for dollar during the 15 years of the Agricultural Conservation Program in the State. Since the start of the ACP program in 1936, the Government has provided some \$12,937,000 for carrying out soil-building practices. In the same period of 15 years, the farmers throughout the State have contributed \$12,710,886 in cash and other material services rendered. In the 6-year period, including 1945 through 1950, the Vermont farmers' contribution in cash and services exceeded that of the Government by one and three-quarter million dollars.

## Research achievements

Research Achievement Sheet 126 (C) gives all relevant details about the identification of the volatile constituents of apples which impart their pleasing taste and aroma; the work was done at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. No. 127 (C) gives the pertinent facts about the development of a new dye test for fiber maturity at the Southern Regional Research Laboratory, AIC, which test is proving of value in cotton mills. You procure these Research Achievement Sheets from the Coordinator of Publications and Information, Agricultural Research Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## OPEDA officers for 1950

The annual election of the officers and executive committee of the Organization of Professional Employees of the Department of Agriculture for 1950 was confirmed by the council January 12. Dr. Bennet A. Porter, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, was reelected president; Miss Mildred C. Benton, Library, vice president; and Charles N. Mason, Production and Marketing Administration, succeeded Walworth Brown as secretary-treasurer. The elected members of the executive committee are: John W. Asher, Jr., REA; J. L. Boatman, Ext; C. O. Henderson, Pers; Harry Irion, FS; E. R. McIntyre, Inf; and John G. Sutton, SCS.

## Steamboat Frank

Steamboat Frank Teuton, AIC Information head, is making an old-time river trip this summer that may appeal to some of you. He leaves Chattanooga July 3 on the luxurious stern-wheeler *Gordon C. Greene*, travels 450 miles down the Tennessee River through the heart of TVA lakes and dams to Paducah, thence 50 miles down the Ohio River to Cairo, Ill., and 180 miles up the Mississippi to St. Louis—a total of 680 miles, requiring 5 days and nights, and costing the modest sum of \$50 for meals, sleeping accommodations, and transportation. He said some of you might want to go along. If so, call Frank on Ext. 6341 or write him in Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Dairy farm in Queens

There are at least two dairy farms in Queens, New York City, defying the encroachments of real estate developments and other business. One has 72 citywise Holsteins and a 51-year-old cowherd from Poland. There is also a farmer—and a farmer's daughter. The cows are housed in a slick, factory-looking building, eat brewers' mash, oil cake, and other delicacies, nuzzle Ohio alfalfa, and moo gently on occasion. But since they get no pasture and do no work they soon begin to lay on the beef; when milk production drops to 10 quarts a day, feeding is stepped up to increase weight and the slaughterhouse soon gets the cow. A cow lasts about a year on this farm—she is bought, milked, fed, sold, and replaced.

## HOW TO MAKE A SPEECH

We have it from a man who knows—copies of the talk on Public Speaking often delivered by Ivan D. Wood, Soil Conservation Service irrigation engineer who works also for Extension Service. It covers the speaker, the speech, the audience, and the room. It should help make an effective public speaker out of almost anyone who will study it carefully even in lack of Wood's own forceful and magnetic delivery which is guaranteed to keep all hearers wide awake. If you want a copy write the editor of *USDA* and ask for Public Speaking. As the patent medicine advertisement said: You will never regret this.

## Nation's agricultural assets

They are showing their first decline since the beginning of the war. For more details write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 253.

## "Editor's Handbook"

This is a book published by the Iowa State College Press at Ames, and is by Frances Andrews Vernon, daughter of Frank E. Andrews who retired some years ago as supervisor of the Santa Fe National Forest.

## Dwarf vegetables

Cy Briggs, Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, calls our attention to the fact that some seed catalogs in the USDA Library list dwarf plants which can be grown in limited spaces. Ask Cy or the Library about this.

## Three new snapdragons

Three new snapdragon varieties—Deep Salmon Pink, Bright Rose, and White Rose—have been released recently which were developed in floriculture research under the direction of Dr. S. L. Emsweller, from a breeding program started in 1941 by R. L. Pryor and Dr. Thomas Little, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

## Ant fighters

You ant fighters might be interested in Circular 173, "Control of Ants," which is free to residents of Connecticut who write the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, at New Haven, and ask for it. Others will have to fight for it. Its author, entomologist John C. Schread, finds chlordane and octalene give excellent results in freeing lawns from ants.

## Versatile flannelgraph

Have you wished for a visual lecture aid that could be brought up to the minute in a second? If so, the flannelgraph may be the answer to your prayer. Parts may be added to it, shifted, or removed with little effort. It has already been used successfully to show changes in land patterns, to point up the results of field studies, and to present economic facts. It is simple, inexpensive, easy to use. Write Extension Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., and ask for a paper on the flannelgraph which may help you.

## Is the water vanishing?

No doubt you have begun to think the US is in a fair way to become a desert with the water vanishing and man famishing. Is our ground water drying up? How serious is the situation? Our Radio and Television Service decided to consult leading experts on the subject in Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, and the Geological Survey. The result is a 2½-page mimeographed item on the subject. To get your copy write the editor of *USDA* and ask for "Is Our Ground Water Drying Up?"

## Vegetable research

If you would like to know the kind of Research and Marketing Act projects recommended by the Vegetable Advisory Committee for the coming year write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 226.

## Beans and bread

Our nutritionists put the seal of approval on baked beans and brown bread as a happy nutritional marriage and remark that the lowly smashed bean sandwich, especially if fortified with a little chopped meat, egg, or cheese to add amino acids from animal proteins, is not only thrifty but very nourishing.

## Individual spray service

"A Sprayer for Dispensing Small Measured Quantities of Liquid" is a new publication by Orin A. Hills and Edgar A. Taylor, EPQ; it describes a sprayer for applying very small measured quantities of liquid insecticides to individual plants and is available from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, USDA. Ask for ET-280.

## New oat disease

Evidence of damage from what seems to be a new oat disease has been found by Federal and State plant scientists over a wide area. High-yielding Bond-derived oat varieties developed in recent years have suffered along with the rest. For more details regarding this write Press Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., and ask for No. 275.

## Perennial phlox

Beltsville Beauty phlox, a hardy garden perennial that can be grown from seed, has been released by the USDA. It is composed of a wide mixture of colors, including white, white with salmon eyes, pinks of various shades, reds, maroons, and salmons. It will be offered for sale through regular commercial channels; the USDA has no seed for distribution.

## New publications

"Group Tenure in Administration of Public Lands" by C. W. Loomer and V. Webster Johnson of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Circular No. 829. \* \* \* "Farm Land Ownership in the United States," by Buis T. Inman and William H. Fippin of BAE, Miscellaneous Publication No. 699. \* \* \* "Annual Report on Tobacco Statistics 1949," CS-39, from Production and Marketing Administration. \* \* \* "The Agricultural Estimating and Reporting Services of the USDA," Miscellaneous Publication No. 703, prepared in BAE. Procure as you do all printed publications, as explained in *USDA* for October 10, 1949, and January 16, 1950.

## Round the world in 80 days

Three USDA officials are going around the world in 80 days, but not in the manner of Jules Verne. Dr. Albert H. Moseman, special assistant to the chief of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering; Paul V. Kepner, assistant to the director of the Extension Service; and Dr. Ross E. Moore, chief of the Technical Collaboration Branch, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, left recently to visit 12 Eastern Hemisphere countries which are seeking United States cooperation in agricultural improvement programs. In conferences with American embassies and foreign officials, they are helping to evolve preliminary plans which would permit us to supply the requested technical aid. Such aid may be of as wide variety as the subject matter covered by the instructional and operational activity of the land-grant colleges and the Department. Countries covered by their 80-day itinerary are Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Ceylon, Burma, Thailand, and the Philippine Republic.



## RMA poultry research

If interested in the types of research recommended by the Poultry Advisory Committee under the Research and Marketing Act write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 295.

## Good crabgrass

Soil Conservation Service says Pangola grass, a native of Africa and a perennial crabgrass, which grows to a height of 2 feet and supplies good pasture in Florida, is also a valuable aid in curbing soil erosion.

## Commodity Credit Corporation

For an account of the Corporation's activities and needs write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 201, a statement by the Secretary before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry regarding the bill to increase CCC's borrowing authority.

## Berkaw dies

Ernest DeMun Berkaw, secretary of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, died January 20, aged 57. He entered old AAA in 1933 and FCIC in June 1938. A native of New Jersey, he graduated from Newark College, Newark, N. J., and was in private employment until he came to Washington, D. C.

## European imports of US fats and oils

Our fats and oils are destined to maintain a strong place among European imports, according to Dr. L. J. Norton of the University of Illinois, who has just completed a Research and Marketing Act project for our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. For more details write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 196.

## Bull psychology

A British farmer was escorting his Jersey bull along the lane. His advice to a stranger was to use "this psychology stuff" on bulls, treat them as a school teacher does a crowd of kids; be firm with them, but never spiteful, or they will take it out on you later. Asked the stranger, "Doesn't it take two of you to control him?" The farmer said that would never, never do. It would make the bull too proud. He'd feel he was master once he knew it took two men to handle him! (Been reading *The Countryman* again!)

## Emerson reports

Speaking to a group of USDA information people recently Jim Emerson, formerly one of them himself, told of the 2 years in Japan during which he was rural affairs information officer with SCAP. Recommendations made in Japan 2 years ago by Associate Director of Information R. L. Webster he described as a Magna Carta. They were being carried out almost to the letter in the establishment of agricultural information services in the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. All customary channels used in the United States are used in Japan.

## Hill succeeds Crawley

William B. Crawley, assistant administrator for production, PMA, is returning to Alabama as PMA State chairman where he can be closer to his family and farming operations. He has been succeeded by Harold K. Hill, a native of Wisconsin, with long experience in agricultural administration and operations, who began work as a county community AAA committeeman in 1936, and came to Washington, D. C., as assistant director for the AAA North Central Region in 1945. Thereafter he held important positions in PMA and FCIC. He, in turn, is succeeded as deputy assistant administrator of PMA by John Dean, a native of South Carolina and graduate of Clemson who joined AAA in Arkansas in 1939, came to the Washington office in 1942, and has held various executive positions in PMA since 1945—most recently as assistant director of the Cotton Branch.

## Trees

"Trees": Yearbook of Agriculture for 1949, was highly praised in a review by Robert A. Cockrell, University of California, that appeared in *Science* for January 27.

## Potato price supports

If you want details regarding the 1950 potato price-support schedule and major program provisions write Press Service, USDA, and request No. 272.

## British Agriculture

"Agriculture in Britain, A General Survey of Policy, Production, and Organization," is a 70-page pamphlet available from British Information Services, New York City, Washington, D. C., Chicago, or San Francisco.

## Judge Jones speaks

Judge Marvin Jones, former War Food Administrator and coauthor of the farm-tenant act bearing his name, not long ago spoke to a huge group in Dallas on the accomplishments of the Farmers Home Administration program. Paid-up FHA borrowers were being especially honored on the occasion.

## Wesley M. Giles passes

Mr. Giles, finance head for Region III, Rural Electrification Administration, died January 19, aged 59, in the USDA emergency room after suffering a heart attack in his office. He was a native of Kentucky, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a degree in electrical engineering, and he served in World War I.

## Permanent Christmas spirit

That Norway spruce Christmas tree in the usually dingy basement of Steubenville, Ohio, Post Office signified the friendly relationships that exist among USDA agencies working in Jefferson County. The tree was supplied, decorated, and lighted by the joint efforts of Soil Conservation Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Extension Service, and U. S. Navy Recruiting Station personnel. Names of all personnel in the building were posted on the wall near the tree and below the "Merry Christmas" sign.

## Lantern slides that can be seen

"Lantern Slides and Such" is the title of an article in the Quarterly Journal of Speech for February. It deals with the catastrophic downfall of a good speaker who had slides that could not be read by those sitting further back than the first few rows. It prescribes remedies for this and similar disasters. The author writes jocosely but with very sound sense. Those of you who occasionally use some not too highly technical slides when making a talk should send to the author for a reprint. Address J. R. van Pelt, Supervisor of Research Education, Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio.

## We were half right!

That item in the January 2 issue about the new cotton Ginning Laboratory at Las Cruces, N. Mex., should have said that it will be operated jointly by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering of ARA and the Cotton Branch of PMA, the former being responsible for the mechanical engineering phases of the ginning research work and the latter for the technological and economic phases. These two agencies have handled the ginning research program cooperatively since it began in 1930. L. J. Watson is officer in charge for the Cotton Branch at the new lab and Victor L. Stedronsky for PISAE. They will be glad to receive visitors and explain operations in detail.

## Undercrowded profession

The veterinary profession is not crowded. Bureau of Animal Industry announces that it "continues to experience a shortage of veterinarians."

## You said it!

Our favorite safety man writes: "Most accidental injuries do not result in death, but those that do are obviously of a serious nature."

## To end an argument

Simply say: "I could not fail to agree more with what you say." By the time the other fellow figures out what that means you may be years older—and miles away.

## Legume inoculation

Dr. L. W. Erdman, a soil bacteriologist and legume-inoculation expert in USDA, recently gave some expert advice on this specialty. If interested, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 50.

## Test tube to test tube

Milk cows with records of three successive generations of artificial insemination in their pedigrees are not uncommon. Now Maine has a proved dairy sire, himself a product of artificial insemination, that has been selected for the insemination of another generation of test-tube dairy animals.

## Wagon follows horse

The wagon follows the horse on the way out. A recent study by Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicates that motortrucks were owned on 29 percent of all U. S. farms in 1948, a 28-percent gain over 1945. Whereas but 1 percent of southern farms had motortrucks in 1920, the percentage in 1948 was 22. Wagon hauling of farm commodities to initial market places is slipping except in the South. Last year only 2.5 percent of all farm products in the U. S. were taken to market by wagon. For all commodities, 65 percent went to the home market by wagon in the South, 31 percent in the North Central region, but only 3 percent in the West, and 1 percent in the Northeast.

## Murphy and Walcott

Here's a couple of fellows about whom George M. Darrow of USDA and E. B. Morrow of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station are bragging just a little. They are two new blueberry varieties recently released, high-quality, fine-flavored fellows that ripen early in the season and may replace Weymouth in the affections of North Carolina. For they are superior to it in flavor and canker resistance, though resembling Weymouth in size and color. The new berries have been tested only in North Carolina, are not recommended for trial north of that State, and you can get the names of cooperating growers from Prof. E. B. Morrow who may be addressed at the experiment station at Raleigh, N. C.

February 27, 1950

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

MAR 17 1950

FOR MARCH 13, 1950

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## For superior work

## Agricultural missionaries

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment were recently awarded employees, as indicated below. Reasons for the increases are given in P-Memo 750, Supplement 4, of the Office of Personnel.

*Agricultural Research Center:* D. DOLORES MCGONIGAL, clerk, Beltsville, Md.

*Bureau of Animal Industry:* MARY T. E. HORTCHKISS, secretary (stenographer), Washington, D. C.

*Farmers Home Administration:* HAROLD L. DUVAL, administrative officer, Des Moines, Iowa; CATHERINE A. FRANK, clerk-typist, Minot, N. Dak.; ROBERT L. KELLOGG, county supervisor, Lewistown, Mont.; JAY R. MULLINS, methods examiner (procedure), Washington, D. C.

*Forest Service:* ABNER CASEY, forester (general), Harrisonburg, Va.; HOWARD R. JONES, civil engineer, Washington, D. C.; ARTHUR A. MURPHY, forestry aid (naval stores), Tallahassee, Fla.

*Office of Experiment Stations:* CALEB PAGAN CARLO, chemist, Mayaguez, P. R.

*Soil Conservation Service:* LELAND H. BURGESS, soil scientist, Demopolis, Ala.; ELIZABETH A. CUNNINGHAM, clerk-stenographer, Norwich, N. Y.; NED W. JESTES, soil conservation aid, Winston-Salem, N. C.; RALPH E. NELSON, soil scientist, Berkeley, Calif.; AUBREY L. SHARP, soil conservationist (staff), Portland, Oreg.

### Farm land development

A new publication from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is Circular No. 825, "Farm Land Development, Present and Future," by H. H. Wooten and Margaret R. Purcell.

### Policy statement

An important policy statement is the Secretary's speech before the North Carolina Farm Bureau in Raleigh, February 14, entitled "The Main Line of Progress." Under Secretary Loveland read the talk because of the Secretary's indisposition. If you want a copy write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 329.

### LEARN TO READ FASTER

We deeply regret that we had to disappoint so many of you when you wrote in for copies of "Some Ideas on Rapid Reading," by Dr. William R. van Dersal, Soil Conservation Service. But the author has now supplied us with sufficient copies (we hope) to provide for those who asked too late before. Please write (and do not phone) the editor of *USDA* for your copy.

TWENTY-TWO agricultural missionaries lunched with members of the Extension Service staff and others at USDA on February 2. They were in Washington, D. C., to attend a seminar conducted by Ext, in cooperation with the Agricultural Missions, Inc., and the Rural Missions Cooperating Committee of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America. The seminar lasted from January 31 until February 8 to provide information and an exchange of ideas on extension methods, organization, and leadership training. Fred P. Frutcheys was director and P. K. Hooker organization leader.

The missionaries themselves represented seven or eight Protestant denominations, including the United Church of Canada. Their fields of labor covered such widely separated parts of the earth as India, Belgian Congo, British West Africa, Burma, Korea, China, Mexico, Brazil, Trinidad, South Africa, Guatemala, and Egypt. The work of the USDA as a whole and of Ext in particular was brought to their attention by a variety of speakers. Seminars and discussions abounded. Thus the message of American agriculture and the methods so aptly utilized by its educational arm, the Extension Service, go forth to the world.

### Cold Storage Advisory Committee

If you want to know the recommendations for research under the Research and Marketing Act made by the Cold Storage Advisory Committee write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 307.

### NEW ORGANIZATION CHART

The Secretary signed a new functional chart of USDA's organization on January 4, 1950. Division of Organization and Personnel Management, Office of Personnel, has distributed it widely, but if you have missed getting a copy and want one write the editor of *USDA*. We shall have to send it folded as it measures 14 by 20 inches.

## Contacts

YOU ARE THE Department of Agriculture, when you answer the telephone, when you write a letter, when you receive a visitor. That stranger outside the Department does not know your supervisor. He cares nothing about your section, division, branch, or agency. But if you greet him with a tired, harried voice he feels that the Department of Agriculture is apathetic and irritable. On the other hand if you are courteous, helpful, and informative, he forms a favorable opinion of the entire Department. YOU are a very important person. Always remember that.

Extension Service annually makes some twenty-eight million contacts with our employers, the American public, by correspondence, over the telephone, by personal visits to farms or of farm folk to offices. Production and Marketing Administration, Farmers Home Administration, and many other agencies have similar records. These constitute our relations with the American public, not what is commonly called public relations, for such contacts, through whatever medium, are educational. We are teaching the public; we are informing it about our research findings, our service activities, and our operations.

The girls who first answer the telephone or first meet the visitor, the man or woman who writes the letter that goes out—these are VIP's and no mistake. We cannot stress too much the importance of having intelligent, resourceful, courteous persons on such jobs. They are worth their pay and then some. A really top woman secretary is a gift of the gods indeed. Her smile is contagious. Even the open-door policy of a top administrator can seep clear down from headquarters to his State and lowliest county offices, while punctiliousness about appointments and protocol are sacrificed for basically sound human relations.

Letters should be answered promptly, briefly, informatively. If at all possible, no letter should lie unanswered more than 24 hours and the reply should be polite and concise. Phone-book listings, especially in the field, should be comprehensive but grouped together so that anyone can easily find any agency in the USDA. The "gal with the tired voice" should be put on some other job than answering the telephone and the "telephone-run-around"—quite as common, by the way, in large private enterprises as in Government—should be abolished.



Buildings housing field agencies should be well identified by markers and the listing of occupants should be complete, informative, and conveniently placed. Above all, the offices should be well-maintained for they represent USDA as a whole. They should be arranged as conveniently and as tidily as possible with space for private personal interviews when needed.

Finally there is the congressional telephone call or letter. It is important and should be so regarded. Each Member of Congress represents some hundreds of thousands of people who are our employers as well as his. Members of Congress speak for their constituents. Their inquiries deserve added respect for that reason. But to the least of those who call, write, or visit us, be helpful and courteous. For you are a very important person! You are the Department of Agriculture.

## Apple scab control

EASIER CONTROL of apple scab, an ever-constant threat in apple-growing States east of the Great Plains, is presaged by reports from USDA plant scientist John C. Dunegan. Research has demonstrated that the fungus causing the disease overwinters almost exclusively in the fallen leaves of the orchard. It produces spores in the spring when the flower and leaf buds are unfolding; these are discharged into the air when it rains to bombard and infect small leaves, blossoms, and fruits on the apple tree. To reduce spore infection Mr. Dunegan recommends a treatment developed at Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station a decade ago.

This is a ground spray of the sodium salt of dinitro-ortho-cresol, known also under such names as Elgetol and Krenite, to cover the fallen leaves— $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon of the chemical to 100 gallons of water used at the rate of 400 gallons to the acre. Every bit of the ground must be covered, under and between trees and in fence rows and uncultivated boundaries of the orchard, in the spring as the buds begin to swell. This will kill 95 percent of the spores and eliminate 90 percent of the infection on young leaves and fruit. It should be followed by regular tree sprays of wettable sulfur, lime sulfur, or forbam applied as per State experiment station schedules.

## Oilseeds and peanut research

If you want to know the kinds and types of research recommended under the Research and Marketing Act by the Oilseeds and Peanut Advisory Committee write the editor of USDA and ask for No. 329.

## The far-flung tomato

THE TOMATO BREEDERS—State, Federal, and commercial—are joining forces to better their far-flung activities, particularly in providing fundamental facts for use in creating better varieties. Their action follows similar programs for potatoes, wheat, corn, and some other crops. At a general meeting of 40 scientists in this and related fields held during the annual convention of the American Society for Horticultural Science last fall in Milwaukee, they formed a coordinating committee, based on representation of four regions, under the chairmanship of C. M. Rick, geneticist of the California Agricultural Experiment Station, at Davis. The other members of the committee are: H. M. Munger, Cornell University, Northeastern Region; D. W. Barton, University of Missouri, North Central Region; C. F. Andrus, USDA Regional Vegetable Breeding Laboratory, Charleston, S. C. Southern Region; W. A. Frazier, Oregon State College, Western Region.

Talking recently before the Southern Section of the Horticultural Society at Biloxi, Miss., Mr. Andrus said four objectives had been outlined by the organizers: 1, Maintain those breeding, genetic, and cytological seed stocks considered to be of fundamental importance in tomato research; 2, Study foreign introductions, particularly those from the point of origin in South America; 3, Survey and pool information on a national scale, determining current and proposed research projects and sources of valuable germ plasma; 4, Compile this information into an annual news letter to be made available to research workers throughout the country.

The committee's annual news letter to be distributed to tomato improvers through the country will contain references to new publications in the field and original information on all aspects of breeding, resistance, quality, composition, genetics, species hybrids, hormones, seed stocks, new projects, and new personnel. At the original meeting in Milwaukee it was agreed that "the practical aspects of tomato breeding are advancing at a good pace, but that fundamental studies such as on inheritance and cytology are being neglected."

## Rural fiction

It is good for all of us, especially employees who lack a farm background, to read rural fiction periodically. We have the lists of selected rural fiction for 1949 compiled by Caroline Sherman of Bureau of Agricultural Economics. If you want one write the editor of USDA. The list names and describes six books.

## Man and his shirt

ONLY A FOURTH of the men surveyed recently by Bureau of Agricultural Economics considered the color or pattern of a shirt of first importance. Even fewer listed brand names, good laundering quality, low price, durability, and workmanship—though more city than rural men mentioned specific brand names. What they do consider of first importance in a shirt are: Style and construction, especially of the collar; size and fit, especially of the collar, sleeves, body fit, and the remnant shoved down trousers in the back; fabric and weave. While 98 men out of 100 knew their collar size, fewer than one-fourth volunteered their sleeve length and some of them were unaware that shirt sleeves came in different lengths! Maybe shirt salesmen keep quiet on that so as to sell sleeve-supporters!

Naturally men with higher incomes give more attention to style, brand, size, and fit than those with lower incomes. Two-thirds of the men preferred cotton for the fabric, about 16 percent preferred rayon, and 10 percent had no preference. Cotton was praised for good laundering quality and durability; rayon for appearance and comfort. White shirts get by far the heaviest vote—about 50 percent want white only, but a third of the men mentioned some other color—usually blue—along with white, and 16 percent seemed to prefer solid colors and stripes. Most frequent complaints: Wrong sleeve length, skimpy tails, poor body fit—then faults of style and construction, wrong collar shape, and the abominable curling collar.

## Woman shopper's delight

WOMEN WHO know from experience the headaches in grocery shopping—especially without a car—have been the first to applaud the new shopping coat for their sex designed by Clarice Scott, clothing specialist of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, stationed at Beltsville, Md. Whatever their status, women have displayed great enthusiasm about a garment with so many handy pockets they can leave their pocketbooks at home. In easy reach at the handiest spots are a pencil on a chain, a fountain pen, and an automatic roll-up chain carrying bus or streetcar tokens and the house key, a zipper pocket for the wallet and another the right size for a checkbook, and slots in the left sleeve for the grocery list and paper handkerchiefs.



All these conveniences are combined in a neat coat design both beautiful and chic. A detachable hood with a small shoulder cape has a protective visor and drawstrings for snugness. Piece de resistance for the weary grocery shopper is a plastic carry-all just the size to hold a large paper grocery bag, but designed with shoulder straps to relieve the strain in carrying heavy packages.

Press coverage has been fine. Two news-reel companies have photographed the coat as modeled by attractive Barbara Lance, secretary of the Bureau's information office at Beltsville. USDA's Motion Picture Service is preparing a movie for television and NBC has already televised the coat in both color and black and white. *You want a pattern for the coat and carry-all?* Write Woman's Day Magazine, Box FB 150, 19 West 44th St., New York City 18. The coat pattern is No. WD 3224, sizes ranging from 10 to 20—even 40—price 35 cents; for the accessory the number is WD 3225, the price 25 cents.

## Brief but important

### Science and chance

"Chance only favors the prepared mind." So said Louis Pasteur about whom a new book is out: "Louis Pasteur: Free Lance of Science," by Rene J. Dubos, Little, Brown & Co., \$5.

### Agricultural foreign service

A joint committee has been created by the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and the USDA to assist in formulating plans for coordinating and expediting recruitment of personnel to carry forward our program of international cooperation in technical agriculture. For names of the committee members and other details write Press Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., and ask for No. 316.

### Airplane scouts for tree disease

USDA forest pathologists are using planes to scout the prevalence of "pole blight" of Western white pine, the most valuable tree species of the Northern Rockies. It attacks the species in the relatively young—mere children of 40 to 100 years—or "pole" stage. The disease distinctly marks the trees—yellow color, sparse foliage, shortened terminals. Later checkups of suspected areas made by automobile or on foot show that the plane scouts are doing an accurate job. Pole blight was first reported about 20 years ago.

### Sphagnum moss instead of soil

USDA specialists recommend the use of the moss instead of soil in germinating seed. It is simple, clean, inexpensive, reliable, easy to manage. It is the best insurance against gardener's scourge, damping-off, and can be used as the only medium in fostering germination or as an inch-deep layer on top of unsterilized soil. Nearly all seed germinate well in sphagnum moss and the fungi which cause damping-off do not grow in it. You can find details in USDA Leaflet No. 243, which procure as you do other printed publications: See USDA for October 10, 1949, or January 16, 1950.

### Pigs

"Pigs from Cave to Corn Belt" is a new book by Charles Wayland Towne and Edward Norris Wentworth from University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla., priced at \$4 complete with bibliography and index.

### Does it yellow with age?

We have a mimeographed sheet running about a page and a quarter which tells what to do when long-stored linen turns yellow or develops yellow stains. The instructions are based on advice by Margaret S. Furry, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. For a copy write the editor of USDA.

### You Scots, if any

There is a fairly new Scottish cookbook floating around—"Recipes from Scotland," by F. Marian McNeill, author of "The Scots Kitchen" which appeared earlier. These books are published by the Albyn Press, 42 Frederick Street, Edinburgh 2; ask your biggest book store; priced at about \$1.75 over here, in case you want to experiment with Scottish cookery or you home economists want something new and nutritious to recommend.

### Whey in sweet baked goods

Whey, a dairy product rich in food values which is often wasted or used inefficiently, is a byproduct of cheese manufacture, and is commercially available in dried, concentrated, and sweetened condensed form. In a Research and Marketing Act project L. V. Rogers of the Bureau of Dairy Industry has found that fresh fluid whey can be substituted for the liquid ingredient in any sweet bakery-goods formula. Dried and concentrated whey are more practical, however, because greater quantities of whey solids can be included in the formula. Complete formulas for using whey in bakery products like cake, cookies, and doughnuts, may be obtained from BDI, USDA. Ask for "Formulas for the Commercial Use of Whey in Bakery Goods."

### Export future of rice

Dr. J. Norman Efferson has studied the world rice-marketing situation under a Research and Marketing Act project. He has prepared two reports which together give a well-rounded picture and also describe cultural and milling practices throughout the world. They are Foreign Agriculture Report No. 35, "The Market Outlook and Prospective Competition for U. S. Rice in Asia, the Near East, and Europe," and F. A. R. No. 43, "The Market Outlook and Prospective Competition for U. S. Rice in the Western Hemisphere." The reports are available free from Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA. For information on research under the Research and Marketing Act recommended recently by the Rice Advisory Committee write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 364.

### "Today's Chicks"

The production of over a billion and a quarter chicks is the business of the hatching industry with many of the 9,000 hatcheries operating under the National Poultry Improvement Plan. The Bureau of Animal Industry and Motion Picture Service have released a new motion picture, "Today's Chicks," showing how hatcheries operating under the plan are improving the breeding qualities of the supply flocks and reducing losses from pullorum disease. It points out that poultry raisers should carefully choose their source of chicks in accordance with the breeding and disease-control program of the hatchery. The picture was written by Guy Bolte formerly of MPS from subject matter presented under the direction of Paul Zumbro of BAI and coordinator of the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

### Take your pick

The week of April 1-8 is National Laugh Week; it is also National Leave-Us-Alone Week. Celebrate whichever you please and be in fashion. It may be more useful for you to know that spring begins March 20 and Easter is April 9 this year.

### "Reupholstering a Chair at Home"

This is the title of a largely pictorial bulletin in the production of which Oregon and 15 other States have combined forces. If interested in seeing a copy write Jean Scheel, Cooperative Extension Service, Corvallis, Oreg.

### "Food and People"

This is the theme the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural and Food and Agriculture Organizations have adopted for world-wide group study and discussion this year. They believe that, if the people of the world understand science today has the tools with which hunger can be eradicated, better methods will be found to attack the age-old problem of surpluses in one part of the world and starvation in others. International experts have prepared pamphlets on various aspects of the problem, two extra ones having been written especially for the United States where the program will start in late March or in April. All USDA agencies will be invited to participate.

### Night plowing

We have heard of the farmer who always wore his overcoat when plowing in July in order to give his less skilled neighbors a reasonable handicap. Now the British are plowing by night under the light of airfield beacon lamps attached to a vertical pole clamped behind the tractor seat, and hanging about 10 feet above the ground, augmented by an aircraft landing light mounted at the front of the tractor. The equipment, about which you can get more details from the British Information Services in Washington, D. C., Chicago, New York City, or San Francisco, works very well and is being used in East Africa by the British Overseas Food Corporation.

### Insectproof packaging

The British announce development of an insectproof wrapping material for large packages of materials of interest to bugs, composed of several very thin layers of cellulose wadding impregnated with DDT. The insect on getting through the first layer discovers a labyrinth of tunnels and folds along which it happily threads its merry way instead of going straight through. Thus it picks up enough DDT to kill itself and, in laboratory tests, not a single insect ever proved mastermind enough to get through the wrapping unscathed. The wadding does not have to be sealed around the package, a fairly large overlap being sufficient, but it is bulky, hence small packages cannot be wrapped in it too well.

### Hot time in the back yard

Frederic C. Willson, V. M. D., a retiree from Bureau of Animal Industry, recently wrote the editor almost in the vivid vein of Fabre about the constant battle in his back yard: "In my small garden back of the house I notice the war among insect and bird life. The wasps and hornets ever looking for caterpillars; the ants ever cleaning up and carrying away dead things; the sparrows preying on the Japanese beetles among the grapevines. Of special interest is a rare big hornet, not seen every year, which burrows a hole in the lawn and may be seen dragging a lifeless spider or caterpillar down that burrow. The little-known robber-fly, a short red-colored thick miniature dragonfly with powerful mouth and wings flying around with a captured fly in its mouth is said to carry away honeybees, but that I have never seen." How go things in your back yard?



## CCC grain storage

Ralph S. Trigg, President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, issued a statement February 14 on the CCC effort to assure the availability of adequate grain storage this spring. If you want a copy write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 399.

## It's house tracks!

"It's house tracks, not horse tracks" says Jack Towers. He refers to the article on "Boston's market" in *USDA* for February 13. PMA plans have gotten away from horse and buggy days, so make "horse" into "house" line 3, column 1, page 3.

## Family fare

By now you will undoubtedly have heard of "Family fare—food management and recipes," Home and Garden Bulletin No. 1 of *USDA*. More than a cookbook, it gives you a concise up-to-date course in nutrition. Procure as you do other printed publications as often explained in *USDA*.

## Warren T. Murphy

Mr. Murphy has been appointed field representative of the Office of the Secretary to serve in the Pacific Southwest area with headquarters at Salt Lake City. For more details get Secretary's Memorandum No. 1250, February 3, from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, *USDA*.

## Research needed in the South

In an address before the Southern Agricultural Workers during February Dr. R. Q. Parks, a *USDA* soil scientist, mapped out some badly needed research to solve soil management problems in the humid South. If you would like a digest of his talk write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 358.

## Ware to Arkansas station

Dr. Jacob O. Ware, who has been senior agronomist in charge of cotton breeding and genetics for *USDA* since 1935, has transferred to the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, where he assumed leadership of Arkansas' cooperative cotton breeding and genetics program.

## Sugar beets

If interested in recent improvements in growing, harvesting, and processing sugar beets, and in the newer successful varieties, you might like a summarized report of the recent meeting of the American Society of Sugar Beet Technologists. If so, write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 342.

## Farm transportation

Transportation is a very important part of the agricultural picture. If you do not know the part *USDA* plays to aid farmers with their transportation problems you should read "Agriculture on the Highways," a talk given by Charles B. Bowling of PMA on January 27, 1950. If you want a copy write to the editor of *USDA*; see back-page masthead.

## Scottish farmer

It was our pleasure to have a much too brief conversation with Maitland Mackie, big-scale dairy farmer from near Aberdeen, Scotland, when he was in Washington recently for British Information Services. His farm is wholly mechanized and flourishing, but he views milk pasteurization dimly as rather a new-fangled fad, and holds it in some disdain though he pasteurizes of course.

PAN-AMERICAN DAY IS APRIL 14.  
IT SHOULD BE OBSERVED APPROPRIATELY WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

## Stroud retired

J. Frank Stroud, soil scientist with Soil Conservation Service at Auburn, Ala., has retired after work in soils for more than 35 years, since April 4, 1934, with SCS and predecessor organizations. He started in soil survey work in Alabama in 1914 and helped train many soil surveyors and soil conservationists.

## "World Food Situation"

This is the title of a 76-page report prepared by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations summarizing the world food supply and reviewing production of and trade in the most important commodities, as well as the winter crop outlook of the Northern Hemisphere. Procure *World Food Situation, 1950*, from FAR, *USDA*, Washington 25, D. C.

## Hepler to Manila

John V. Hepler, extension specialist of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, left early in February for Manila where he took the newly established post of United States agricultural adviser to the Department of Agriculture and Commerce of the Philippines. A native of Kansas, educated at Kansas State, Mr. Hepler has been long in extension work and, since June 1946, has been head of FAR's Extension and Training Division.

## "Training by Television"

This is the title of a report on a Navy research project in the field of television which was prepared by Dana D. Reynolds of *USDA*'s Radio and Television Service, who is also a lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve. If interested in the role TV can play in education and in the principles and techniques involved in its use, you will find this report worth while. Dana might be induced to send you a copy if you write to him.

## Shell to FHA

William H. Shell, former official of the veterans hospital at Tuskegee, Ala., has been appointed advisor on racial matters to Administrator Dillard B. Lasseter of Farmers Home Administration. More than 45,000 Negro farm families now receive assistance from this agency. Mr. Shell's appointment brings the number of FHA's Negro policy-making officials to 7; FHA also employs some colored field personnel. Mr. Shell is a graduate of Morehouse College with an M. A. in sociology from Atlanta University. He is a native of Georgia.

## Director Irwin returns

Director D. L. Irwin of the Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Alaska, who has been in Washington several weeks on official business and reporting steady progress in Alaska's agricultural research program, has returned home. If you want to know about farming in Alaska get hold of the 90-page publication by the *USDA* and the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station called "Some Economic Aspects of Farming in Alaska, with Chief Attention to the Matanuska Valley, Alaska." Ask for FM-74 and procure as you do printed publications.

## B. J. Howard dies

Burton J. Howard, a pioneer of the Food and Drug Administration who was for many years also a *USDA* employee, died in Washington, D. C., February 4, aged 77, after 7 years in retirement. From 1901 until 1927 he was in charge of the microchemical laboratory, Bureau of Chemistry; then he became senior microscopist of the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils until 1928, from which time until 1942 he was in charge of the micro-analytical laboratory, Food and Drug Administration. He is widely known for the "Howard mold count method" of detecting impurities in foods.

## Moore succeeds Cary

Dr. Lane A. Moore, assistant head of the Division of Nutrition and Physiology, Bureau of Dairy Industry, has succeeded Charles A. Cary, who retired January 31, as head thereof. Dr. Moore joined BDI in 1945 after 4 years at University of Maryland and 12 years before that in the dairy department of Michigan State College. A native of Ohio, he graduated from Iowa State in 1923, took his master's and doctor's at Michigan State, and won the Borden Award at Maryland for his researches on the chemical, physiological, and pathological relationships of vitamin A deficiency in dairy cattle.

## Jeter is tops

In *Rural Sociology* for December 1949 you will find a study on "The Use of Publicity Materials in North Carolina Weeklies," by George L. Abernethy and C. Brooks Anderson of Davidson and of Marietta College, respectively. It is well worth reading. Extension Service, *USDA*, may be able to supply you with a reproduction of the article. Suffice it to say here that the Agricultural Extension Service of the North Carolina State College came out on top by a good margin, indicating that the releases actually used in weeklies were, to a disproportionate extent, prepared by Frank Jeter and his coworkers who knew about the study only after it appeared in print.

## Scientists and writers

In the *American Scientist* dated January 1950 (vol. 38, No. 1) you will find an excellent discussion by George S. Fichter of the relationship between "Scientists and Science Writers." The author recognizes that writing about science is as much a specialty as the performance of research itself. He sees the scientist and the science writer as interdependent. He states that few can master both professions because both demand constant attention and study, hence teamwork is the key word, teamwork between scientist and writer. Writers must translate the scientist's incomprehensible dialects into ordinary readable language and scientists must offer them all possible assistance in "obtaining and interpreting the data of scientific research in the interests of a more discerning and cooperative public."

## Smith on book board

High recognition came to Dr. Nathan R. Smith, soil bacteriologist of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering when, about the first of the year, he was selected a trustee-editor member of the board of trustees for Bergey's Manual of Determinative Bacteriology. This 1,500-page book, a Baedeker to world bacteriologists, was first compiled in 1923 by Dr. David H. Bergey, then of University of Pennsylvania. The author, who was disinterested in profits from the book, made careful plans to keep it current by establishing a self-perpetuating board of which he was a member until his death in 1937. The book is now in its sixth edition and is published by Williams and Wilkins, Baltimore. There is also an abridged edition. Dr. Smith, whose reputation is international, is associated on the board with other distinguished bacteriologists.

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MARCH 27, 1950

## MIMU

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Hutchinson met with agency Key Management Representatives just a month ago and reemphasized Management Improvement and Manpower Utilization. He referred to Executive Order 10072 and Public Law 429, Eighty-first Congress, which direct that we carry out our programs with maximum effectiveness and economy. He stressed the fact that each USDA agency must continually appraise its operations and strive for improvements. We must search unceasingly to reduce costs, save materials and equipment, save manpower, simplify procedures, speed operations, and improve organization.

Each agency head has designated a Key Management Representative to organize and direct its MIMU program, prepare agency plans, coordinate reviews of operations, identify opportunities for improvement, report progress, and stimulate widespread employee participation. It is not our tradition as a Department to half do any job we undertake. We must all hold ourselves ready to make changes, speed operations, save manpower, and reduce costs. We must imaginatively discover opportunities for improvement. We must educate ourselves and our employees in good management methods, encourage and train them when necessary.

Remember, you and I and all of us help foot the Government's tax bill. USDA employees in the metropolitan area pay 4.5 million dollars annually as tax deductions, and the figure for all our employees is probably not less than 20 millions. As taxpayers as well as public servants, each one of us, down to the very least and up to topmost brass, shares responsibility for cautious and fruitful use of every dollar expended on programs administered by this Department.

## THAT POTATO PROBLEM

To speed up handling hundreds of inquiries regarding surplus potatoes, the Department has prepared a brief statement covering most of the questions asked. It's entitled "Surplus Potatoes: Why We Have Them and What the U. S. Department of Agriculture Is Doing to Move Them Into Consumption." To get your copy address *Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.*

## The phone's ringing!

WELL, NOT YET—BUT SOON. The Rural Electrification Administration has allocated \$243,000 for a loan to the Florida Telephone Co., Florida, Ala., to improve and expand rural telephone service in a three-county area in southern Alabama and northern Florida. This is the first such allocation under the Rural Telephone Act which became effective October 28, 1949, as an amendment to the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

Construction under the loan will enable the company to provide better service to its present 447 subscribers and to add an additional 1,053 new ones in rural areas. After completion of this plan the company has agreed to continue construction until service is available to all of the remaining 960-odd rural families in its service area. Thus, the full system contemplated will make modern telephone service available to 2,460 rural subscribers. In existence since 1901, the company's present facilities are now loaded to capacity.

The Government will receive a first mortgage on all the company's property, existing and new, as security for the loan, which is for the maximum permissible amortization period of 35 years at 2-percent interest. REA will provide the borrower counsel and assistance on technical and operating problems as needed. Funds will become available and construction will proceed after execution of the loan agreement, mortgage, and other documents, and after State Commission approval is obtained.

## WE GOT SWAMPED

The editor simply did not anticipate the hundreds of requests you would send in for "Public Speaking" and "Is Our Ground Water Drying Up?" They came faster than we could handle them. We also ran out of copies. So some of your requests will be filled belatedly. Mighty sorry about this, but at least it taught us a lesson!

## The ACP

"NOW TAKE an automobile, for instance; if it has four wheels it'll run downhill. But to really go anywhere, you need the right combination of gas, oil, and ignition. Well, that's the way it is with the soil- and water-conservation work of the U. S. Department of Agriculture." Similarly, Director Alvin V. McCormack, Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, points out that the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) he directs is but a part of USDA's over-all conservation program.

One of the initial steps to a better agriculture is finding improved methods of conserving soil, protecting crops, and increasing yields. That is the job of the research worker. Then the farmer must be informed about these improved methods. This is the responsibility of the Extension Service. Some of the improved methods require demonstration and technical skills. These are provided by the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service. But the better methods are not adopted by farmers fast enough to keep ahead in the race against soil losses. So direct financial assistance is provided to help farmers secure the conservation materials and services needed to carry out approved conservation practices. That's where the ACP comes in.

On a "share-the-cost" basis, the ACP provides assistance to any farmer who wants to cooperate in carrying out approved soil- and water-conservation practices. This program is administered locally by elected farmer committees, one in every agricultural county and community in the country. This brings ACP within easy reach of all farmers in each of the 48 States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

With the help of the Agricultural Research Administration and cooperating experiment stations, Extension Service, Forest Service, SCS, State departments of agricultural, and other agencies, the "approved" conservation practices available for assistance are selected to fit the needs of the State, county, and individual farms. In 1949 soil- and water-conservation practices adapted to local conditions and needs were carried out on approximately 2.9 million farms in the United States and Insular Territories. It is anticipated that an even greater number will cooperate in the 1950 program.

## Sprays for ticks

New Sprays for Ticks on Livestock, EC-10, is a new folder from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.



# Offspring of SCS

THERE HASN'T been much pageant or flourish about it, but scientific soil and water conservation programs are springing up all over the world. And, almost without exception, they follow the pattern of the Soil Conservation Service program as carried out these last 15 years. Some of us remember going about our work with a feeling of wonder when, during the war, men began arriving from distant corners of the globe for intensive study with SCS's scientists and technicians out on our land. What would this lead to? Were we actually witnessing the beginning of a world-wide movement for care and protection of the land that feeds us?

Well, it has begun. Soil conservation work is now being carried on in 48 countries besides the United States. Nineteen of those countries, already have well-organized soil conservation agencies operating on the land in cooperation with farmers. Others, of course, have made only a beginning. Nearly all programs are led by men who have trained with SCS. Thus far, a total of 536 foreign agriculturists have come to learn our conservation techniques and ways of organizing full-sized programs of this kind. Of this number, 160 have been year-long "trainees."

With so many programs, soil conservation begins to "show" on the land of many countries. In Sao Paulo, Brazil, about 7,000 farms are now reported to be under complete soil conservation plans, with contouring and terracing protecting more than 50,000,000 coffee trees. Carlos Hehder, Brazilian farmer, writes "I want gratefully to tell you that I obtained a 30-percent increase in production from the part of my cotton fields that were terraced." Australia now has nearly 200 major soil conservation demonstrations ranging in area from 300 to 2,000 acres, and its staff of about 300 conservation officers is taxed to the utmost to assist farmers in planning their farms. Urgent problems include the great Mallee area of "sand drift and dust pall," and getting catchment areas in soil conservation before big reservoirs are built.

The Indian Government started last year a huge soil conservation program as a preliminary step in launching the Damador Valley Corporation, somewhat like our TVA, in the State of Bihar. The director studied with SCS in 1948. Mexico, operating under a national soil conservation law (as are six other major producing countries), has a Soil Con-

servation Service with the largest trained staff in the world outside the United States. The 13 large soil conservation districts, occupying most of central Mexico, are managed by men well known and liked around SCS; they were among the first foreign trainees, and off and on they come back for more. Conservation practices have been widely adopted by Mexican growers of cultivated crops, increase in yield amounting to \$1,000 per hectare has been reported. In Guatemala, demonstrations and experiments are well established and practices are spreading to farms. The head of the soil conservation program in Guatemala, a young chap with the serious and thoughtful features of the American Indian, also was among the first foreign group to study with SCS.

In Basutoland and Swaziland, remote South African states, the people point with pride to their highly successful soil conservation work which they "learned from the United States of America" and which, incidentally, gives them "10 bushels more maize from each acre." One of the newest programs for scientific soil and water conservation is that of the new Philippine Republic, where conservation surveys are under way, and where a large office building on Florida St., Manila, has been named the Soil Conservation Building. For more details on world-wide soil conservation write the Information Division, SCS, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Your "local forester"

SOME 200 technically trained foresters are now giving on-the-ground assistance in woodland management to individual owners of small woodland tracts. They are employed on Federal-State cooperative projects under terms of the Norris-Doxey Cooperative Farm Forestry Act of 1937. Generally known as the "farm forester" or the "local forester," the Norris-Doxey-project forester works with farmers, local agricultural technicians, small sawmill operators, and others to help solve forest-management problems in his community. Upon receiving a request for assistance, the farm forester visits the woodland in company with the owner and advises as to its management needs. He may prepare a simple management plan, help mark trees to be cut, and advise on marketing the products. Or he may recommend against cutting young timber that will yield the owner far more if allowed to grow a few years. If the job warrants, he recommends qualified consulting foresters. Each forest property is a special problem because forests

vary greatly in species, age, type, and condition. The local forester uses his technical skill to appraise the property and make specific recommendations for handling it best.

The program started in 1940 with 50 farm foresters. Since then more than 60,000 farmers with holdings totaling 6½ million acres have received assistance. About 2¼ billion board feet of forest products have been harvested with farm foresters' advice. The owners received \$31,200,000 for products sold. Forest Service says that some 4¼ million persons in this country own small tracts of woodland. All together, they own 261 million acres—three-fourths of all our privately owned commercial forest land. Their average holding is 62 acres. About half of the 261 million acres is owned by farmers, the other half by local townspeople, real-estate speculators, and others, many of them absentee-owners. These small forests are potentially the most productive in the Nation. But they are also generally in the poorest condition, damaged by fires and destructive cutting.

Few owners of small woodlands, farm or nonfarm, have the technical knowledge necessary to manage their timber for the best continuous crops. Many are not aware of the returns that can come from good forest management until the possibilities are pointed out to them. The Norris-Doxey foresters are getting many more requests for service than they can handle. About a thousand counties are included in the project areas now served. Many of the foresters serve three to five counties. About twice as many farm foresters would be needed to cover adequately the counties now included in project areas, and another thousand counties with substantial areas of woodland in small ownerships still lack any such cooperative service.

## That "new" oak disease

As this is written the papers are filled with accounts of a "new" disease of oaks, but the fungus causing it (*Chalara quercina*) was described and named in 1944. Outbreaks have occurred in seven States and the disease has an alarming and so far mysterious way of making long jumps. So far it has been found only in the Middle West, but it is a threat to oaks in the East which constitute a third of the region's hardwood timber supply. The fungus, related to the one that causes Dutch elm disease, develops more rapidly on red and black than on white oaks and may kill the trees within a year, after defoliation. It has been found on 11 oak species in nature; 17 other oak species have been inoculated experimentally. It spreads through wound infections or can travel underground via natural root grafts. All who observe suspicious dying of oaks should report to their State agricultural experiment station or to the Division of Forest Pathology, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.



## SCS in the Southeast

FARMERS COOPERATING with soil conservation districts in the Southeast put increased emphasis on grassland agriculture during 1949 in applying complete farm soil- and water-conservation programs. The trend toward more pasture and hay crops meant an increased safety margin in using the land within its capabilities and treating it in accordance with its needs. It also meant a better balance between sod crops and cultivated land on individual farms. The shift was enabling farmers to relieve the pressure on land classes suitable for cultivation only with intensive soil conservation practices, by putting more of the land into hay and grazing crops, and to grow their row crops on the better classes of land requiring less complex conservation measures.

Farmers cooperating with soil conservation districts developed during 1949 nearly one-third of all the improved pasture established since the beginning of the soil conservation district program nearly 13 years ago. The first district in the Southeast (and in the Nation) was organized in 1937. Pasture improvement includes brushing, seeding, sprigging, fertilizing, liming, and mowing. Here's how fast pasture development is spreading in the Southeast: For every 100 acres of pasture seeded in 1948, farmers planted 172 acres in 1949.

Marked increases also were shown in the plantings of kudzu, sericea, alfalfa, and other perennial hay crops. In 1949, plantings of these perennials amounted to more than one-fifth of the total since 1937. They were 31 percent greater in 1949 than in 1948. Largest increase in 1949 was shown by sericea, which more than doubled the 1948 plantings. The largest increase of all practices (42 percent in 1949 as compared with 1948) was shown in the acreage of water-disposal areas. While these were primarily developed to take care of water emptied from terraces, they will also provide an important supplemental source of hay.

Much of the land on which farm drainage was applied will go into new pasture. Some of it will also go into row crops, further relieving the pressure on land in the lower capability classes. Many of the farm ponds will provide water for livestock in the rapidly expanding area of grazing land. Others will be used primarily as fishponds and for recreational purposes. All of this work was done as a part of complete farm soil- and water-conservation programs developed with assistance of Soil Conserva-

## Earliest publications

THE EARLIEST bound copy of USDA publications the editor found in the Library began with a circular from the Commissioner of Agriculture, Isaac Newton, on the current Agricultural, Mineral, and Manufacturing Conditions and Resources of the United States, dated 1862. It was followed by a Catalogue of the Plants, Bulbs, Tubers, etc., for Distribution from the U. S. Propagating Garden, supplemented by a report on the Objects and Aims of the Garden by William Saunders, its Scottish-born superintendent. Then came the first truly research publication ever issued by the Department, a Report on the Chemical Analysis of Grapes, submitted to Commissioner Newton by Charles M. Wetherill, first chemist of the Department. This covered 4 pages including a letter from the Commissioner to Wetherill asking that it be published; the remainder was in the form of a letter from Wetherill to Newton complying with the request.

There was a table giving the source of the samples, the percentage of juice in the different lots of grapes, the specific gravity of the juice, the percentage of the juice extract when dried at 110° C., and the percentages of ash, dry grape sugar, and acid in the juice. These were wine grapes and the chemist disclaimed any servile imitation of Europe and said we would produce our own distinctive native wine grapes, the juice of which compared favorably with that from the finest European product. The chemist also announced that he would next undertake the analysis of samples of soils, muck, manures, and the mineral ingredients of plants insofar as his laboratory facilities permitted. He also intended to analyze some fine hemp specimens he had just received from Kentucky for their narcotics. He asked Congress to put the chemical division of the Department in shape to render real service and his final paragraph was a prolonged plea for funds so that we could pursue our own researches in agricultural chemistry and would not have to depend upon Europe.

tion Service technicians working full-time in the districts.

Principal practices applied and percentage increases in 1949 over 1948 were: Water-disposal areas, 42.4; farm drainage, 38.5; pasture improvement, 38; woodland management, 32.4; farm ponds, 31.9; perennial hay crops (kudzu, sericea, alfalfa, etc.), 31; cover cropping, 21; tree planting, 20; contour farming, 19; wildlife area improvement, 17.6; terracing, 16.9; strip cropping, 10; crop rotations, 9.7; improved water application, 4.4.

## Research aids research

DR. G. H. ELLIS of the U. S. Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory at Ithaca, N. Y., a while ago devised a new, quick, highly sensitive test for cobalt. Now that we know cobalt is a constituent of the recently discovered vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, this work assumes enhanced importance. It is a marvel in the detection of something that almost isn't there at all. It depends on the color reaction of cobalt with nitrosocresol—development of a purplish brown in the ultraviolet range, undetectable by the human eye. But by use of a colorimeter Dr. Ellis has been able to detect a thousandth of a microgram of cobalt in 5 grams of water; a microgram is a millionth of a gram and there are about 29 grams in an ounce.

Such new methods help enormously in determining the nutritive value of soils and plants, and the complicated nutritive relationships between plants, soils, animals, and human beings. Older methods took much time and work, hence were far more costly in taxpayer dollars. Scientific research not only benefits agriculture, industry, and everyday living; it also benefits the performance of further research. A while ago the advantages of the centrifuge were appreciated as speeding up laboratory determinations but such a method as Dr. Ellis has devised largely dispenses with even the centrifuge.

The use of such methods speeds research, saving time and money. The scientists can use small quantities of material and very small containers and can work with large numbers of samples easily. The lab has an absorption water-purifying apparatus which not only does away with the old distillation process, which permits minute quantities of minerals to be carried over mechanically, but provides a better product by removing minerals with synthetic exchange-resins similar to those used in commercial water softeners. The apparatus will pay for itself in 2 years. Director Kenneth C. Beeson of the Laboratory points with pride to these developments.

### In-service trainee program

A record number of some 250 agricultural leaders will come from at least 28 foreign countries to the United States in 1950 as in-service trainees. Plans are being developed for their study and work, our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations being the coordinating agency to carry out the project, working in close cooperation with Agricultural Research Administration, Extension Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Forest Service. If you would like a few more details about this write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 446.



## The grasses

RAYMOND J. POOL, who received his Ph. D. from the University of Nebraska, has been a member of that same University's faculty since 1907, and is one of our outstanding botanists, has produced a new book, *Marching with the Grasses*. Relatively small, it contains but 210 pages, index and bibliography included, and is available from the University of Nebraska Press at Lincoln for \$3.50 a copy, though our USDA Library has it also. The book describes the role that wild and cultivated grasses have played in the slow evolution of human society.

Starting with the family traits of the grasses and a discussion of the world's principal grasslands, it gives specific consideration to wheat, rice, corn, barley, oats, rye, the sorghums and millets, and sugarcane. Then follow chapters on range, pasture, and meadow grasses; grasses in relation to soil conservation; and grasses for lawns, parks, and playing fields. The book is designed to appeal to a host of persons who wish to develop a broad background for the appreciation of world affairs or to enlarge their understanding of these unique organisms, the grasses, upon which man and animals depend for their very lives.

## Maxims by experts

CAN YOU TRANSLATE these common maxims as rewritten here by experts in Italianese?

Multitudinous verities are enunciated in a manner simulating risibilities. \* \* \* Unselfish concern for well-being of others has its genesis in the domicile of the individual. \* \* \* Numerous eventualities intervene within the course marked at its terminal points by a drinking vessel and the official border of the mouth. \* \* \* A deactivated cranium content is the industrial establishment of the Number 1 citizen of Hades. \* \* \* The guiding principle of a given operation is deficient if it fails to function at full capacity in the direction opposite to, as well as concurrent with, its basic course. \* \* \* Extreme exigency is the maternal ancestor of contrivance. \* \* \* Cautiously survey the perspective prior to going forward precipitously. \* \* \* An individual deficient in cerebral capacity is swiftly separated from his financial accretion. \* \* \* A superfluity of culinary operators wreaks demolition to the pot liquor.

(From the Scrapbook of Herbert Drake by way of "The Teller," FHA Area Finance Office, Montgomery, Ala.)

## Forests supply water

NATIONAL FORESTS in 11 Western States occupy one-fifth the total land area but supply more than one-half the total stream flow. The 11 States are New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and California. Their average long-time annual precipitation is 17 inches; that of their National Forests is 26 inches; the average annual run-offs are 3.3 and 14 inches, respectively. The total precipitation of the 11 States averages 1,088 million acre-feet a year; of their National Forests 344 million. But only 22 percent of the former makes its way to streams and rivers while 53 percent of the precipitation in the National Forests of those States does so. National Forests provide water for farm and urban use.

Forests act like blotters. They soak up water and then part with it in trickles. Evaporation is also less in high, cool, forested areas than in the lowlands. Actually the National Forests of those 11 Western States produce 60 trillion gallons of water a year, sufficient to supply desiccated New York City for 137 years at its normal consumption rate of 1.2 billion gallons a day. Since approximately 4 acre-feet of water, wastage aside, is the maximum required to irrigate western crops, the annual National Forest run-off in the 11 States mentioned would irrigate 46 million acres of cropland, an area 9 times the size of Massachusetts or New Jersey. With the Nation's attention focused on water shortages these statistics, compiled by Edward N. Munns, chief of the Division of Forest Influences, Forest Service, assume new importance.

## Value of plant proteins

WE AMERICANS obtain a liberal share of our dietary protein from foods of animal origin. Yet grains supply close to one-third of these proteins and low-income families at all times must use proteins from plants with efficiency for their nutritional well-being. Research carried on by D. Breese Jones (recently retired), and associates have given us much insight into the value of plant proteins. The work began in the old Bureau of Chemistry, continued in the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, and has been in the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics since 1943.

Working with experimental animals it was shown that the protein of rolled oats surpassed that of wheat, corn, rye, and barley in quality; the protein of rice

equaled that of the oats but the quantity present was small. Topmost rank among plant proteins generally was taken by wheat germ with corn germ a close second, both proving almost as efficient tissue builders as the proteins of eggs, milk, meat, and other foods of animal origin.

When proteins are combined the whole often adds up to more than the sum of the parts. When 90 parts of white flour are combined with 10 parts of peanut or cottonseed flour the growth-promoting value of the mixture is twice that of the first alone; this rises to fourfold when these same proportions of white and soybean flours are used. Adding 15 parts of soybean flour to 85 of white flour in bread makes a mixture five times as good for promoting growth as white flour alone. Soybean proves as good a supplement here as meat, eggs, or milk.

More deterioration on storage is found in ground than in whole grain kernels; at room temperature than in cold storage; and, as a rule, in bags than in sealed containers. The solubility of white flour protein decreases 60 percent when stored in bags for 2 years at room temperature. Decreases for digestibility of grain proteins on storage range from 8 to 29 percent. The information obtained in these studies is of inestimable value in furthering improved human nutrition. (Details will be found in Research Achievement Sheet No. 128 (H); procure from Agricultural Research Administration).

## Magazine fare

A RECENT ISSUE of *Liberty* commends our Miscellaneous Publication 688, *Buying Men's Suits*, which has advice for men and also for wives who help select their husbands' suits. "The coat that has everything" is the way *Woman's Day* describes the all-weather shopping coat developed by Clarice L. Scott, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. This smart-looking garment has also been mentioned recently in "Buy-Lines" in *Ladies' Home Journal* and *Saturday Evening Post*. *Pathfinder* described the coat as doing "the work of a handbag, delivery boy, and umbrella." Speaking of coats, the *Christian Science Monitor*, after perusing a USDA study of "Men's Preferences Among Selected Clothing Items," discovered that "you're more likely to wear a raincoat if you've been to college than if you haven't."

Capper's *Farmer*, in *Farm Research News*, includes the USDA experts' definition of the ideal hog: The hog without excess fat weighing 225 pounds and yielding not less than 50 percent of its



weight in hams, loin, bacon, butt, and picnic shoulder. Farm Journal points out that "rice curls," developed by our Western Regional Research Laboratory, are of interest. Jack and Jill, Curtis Publishing Co.'s magazine for youngsters, devotes a page to photographs of coffee, tea, and chocolate taken by Jim Mitchell, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, who covers Latin America with his camera.

"Rural School, 1950" is the title of an article in Seventeen which tells about the up-and-coming boys and girls in a rural high school in Floodwood, Minn., population 600, a remote town in a typical cut-over area of the State's northeast. Boys from the vocational agriculture classes, in charge of 109 acres of forest owned by the school, are building windbreaks, reducing erosion, practicing selective cutting, and replanting as they go along. They're out to prove that forest land can be made to yield a return each year and that ravaging of natural resources can be halted. If you want to learn about Western Hemisphere fiber production, read "Dar tropiska vaxter blir svenska snoren" in Aftontidningen, published in Stockholm, Sweden. The article is illustrated with pictures of the henequen work in El Salvador.

## Big game in the woods

ABOUT 30 PERCENT of the deer, bear, elk, moose, and other United States big game animals live in the National Forests. Deer are commonest, the population having been 2,130,000 in 1949, as compared with 192,000 elk, and 20,000 mountain goats! Not to mention 1,200 introduced Prussian boars and 14,000 specimens of our native wild pig, the peccary. There should also be mentioned 89,000 black bears, 750 grizzlies, and 9,800 bighorn sheep. Last year the big game on our National Forests provided recreation for 1.2 million hunters who bagged 318,000 animals.

In general the big game population has been about stationary for the past 2 years. Serious losses materialized during the bitter winter of 1949 only where overpopulation existed. Deer showed a slight loss between 1948 and 1949, elk a slight gain, and moose and mountain goats held their own; the black bears gained and grizzlies showed a slight loss. All told there were 2,490,000 big game animals on the National Forests in fiscal year 1949 as compared with 2,470,000 the previous year. The gain is negligible. Actually the ranges of many major deer and elk herds are now fully stocked or overstocked.

USDA: March 27, 1950

## School lunch goal

HOW MUCH can children afford to pay for lunch at school? Reports from many States show that participation falls off rapidly when the price is as high as 20 cents. Yet in 1948-49, 20 cents was the typical cost to the child of a meal of meat, chicken, fish, or cheese, a couple of vegetables, bread and butter, and a half pint of milk. In many places the price was less, but in some it was even higher. School lunch people know that whenever prices are lowered more children take the "complete" or "type A" lunch, while an increase of even 2 or 3 cents drives many of them to snacks and soft drinks.

Knowing all this, State school lunch officials are launching a Nation-wide campaign to bring down the price of school lunches. Several States are planning publicity in connection with one especially low-priced meal each week. Other States plan 2 weeks of low-cost meals. Menus making the greatest possible use of free foods are being worked out. It is expected that communities will take an active interest in this campaign through school administration, lunchroom management, the Parent-Teachers Association, and other organized groups.

Several things will help school officials in their efforts to serve a complete lunch for less. Food prices in general are lower all over the Nation. The Federal school lunch appropriation is larger this year than last. School lunches are receiving more and better commodities from USDA this year than ever before. More school lunch cooks and supervisors have had the opportunity to attend workshops on lunchroom techniques—especially in making the best use of section 32 and section 6 foods. School lunch managers have also learned to take advantage of the good buys available each month on USDA's Plentiful Foods List.

## Viral and rickettsial

MICROBIOLOGISTS, who are employed by the Department in variety and in considerable numbers, will make note that the American Type Culture Collection (see USDA of December 5, 1949) has just issued a small catalog known as the Viral and Rickettsial Registry, a book loaded with pathological dynamite. Dr. Ruth E. Gordon, curator of the ATCC, with headquarters at 2029 M Street NW., Washington, D. C., says this listing of 41 important viruses and a half dozen rickettsiae describes each one in detail and

specially designates those so hazardous to the individual or the community as to require a special permit from the Public Health Service or the Department of Agriculture.

The ATCC merely keeps specimens of these viruses and rickettsiae in cold storage for distribution, at \$10 per specimen, under conditions described in the catalog. It does not increase any of them. The rickettsiae are smaller than bacteria, are entirely pathogenic and cannot be grown in an artificial culture—only in susceptible, living tissue. The viruses are still smaller entities and, likewise, can be propagated only in viable, susceptible material. The regular ATCC catalog is limited to cultures of bacteria, fungi, yeasts, algae, protozoa, and bacteriophages. Cultures from these lists also sell at \$10 each, but a reduction of 70 percent is granted to educational and charitable institutions.

The ATCC warns that all requests for viral and rickettsial agents must be made by the head of the department concerned or indorsed by him with initials and appropriate title. When requests come in, Dr. Gordon says, the ATCC will request permission from the appropriate Government agency for shipment of the restricted virus to the applicant. The new catalog gives details as to what cultures come under the USDA and what under U. S. Public Health Service.

## Plant factory process

PHOTOSYNTHESIS, the process by which plants use sunlight and chlorophyll to make what humans regard as food, is still somewhat mysterious, but step by step, scientists are constantly attaining greater understanding of it. Mechanically, it is an inefficient process of utilizing only a very small part of the available solar energy, but it is the only known photochemical reaction in which the potential energy of the products is increased. As early as 1921, E. C. Baly of England detected formaldehyde in water solutions of carbon dioxide when agitated and exposed to ultraviolet light, and in 1928, he and his associates announced the photosynthesis of formaldehyde, glucose, and starch in test tubes under ultraviolet light and using nickel carbonate as the catalyst.

Chlorophyll is the green plant's catalyst in such operations carried on in the cool, quiet factories of the fields. Scientists at the Carnegie Institution and the University of California have long been working to solve this mystery of nature. Radioactive isotopes have long been used



in research on photosynthesis. If the efficiency of nature's defective process could be increased even slightly, food production would increase enormously. If plant scientists learned to understand and control the process it might become possible for them to grow a crop of wheat in a month, or to harvest a field of tomatoes or lettuce a week after planting, or even to grow food elements in tanks on large scale.

Quite recently, scientists at Stanford University have announced the synthesis on comparatively large scale of both proteins and fats starting in with a solution containing minerals and a few hundred little green one-celled plants too small to be seen individually with the naked eye. The cells contain chlorophyll which goes to work in the mineralized water when the sunlight strikes them. A greenish substance with a 50-percent content of high-quality protein has been produced but so far it tastes like alfalfa! Conditions can be changed so that the substance contains 85 percent of fat. No large-scale economical production of human food has yet taken place, but it seems quite probable that within a few years the process of photosynthesis will be sufficiently understood and controlled to produce considerable high-quality nutriment.

## Wild flowers

Would you know Solomonseal from the spurges or troutlilies from bladderwort? Have you any interest whatever in identifying the wild flowers? (Don't ask what makes them wild; that has been overdone.) Those who know say the wild flowers make a grand hobby and, if you want to begin right, get hold of the new illustrated book by Alfred Stefferud, editor of the USDA Yearbooks, entitled "How to Know the Wild Flowers"—and don't throw away the dust jacket—the wild-flower "color rainbow" is on it. Published by Henry Holt & Co., 257 Fourth Avenue, New York City 10, it is priced at \$2, endorsed by the Wild Flower Preservation Society, with illustrations by Sidney H. Horn formerly of Iowa State College staff. The book is so well organized and illustrated that it makes wild-flower identification almost foolproof. Start a new hobby today and live longer.

## British demonstration farms

Interesting experiments involving voluntary demonstration farms are being carried out in Wales to test scientific methods of raising output. A farmer is asked to cooperate for 4 years with the National Agriculture Advisory (or Extension) Service in a complete farming plan to prove that production can be increased by applying sound and applicable scientific methods farm-scale. A 70-acre dairy farm was chosen, a system of rotational grazing was devised for the paddocks, the objective being adequate grazing for all the cattle, and the plowable remainder of the land was put into an arable rotation to provide small grains, roots, silage, and hay. The landlord's interest was aroused and he erected a shed to accommodate an additional 10 cows making an eventual 24 in all in lieu of the previous 14. The herd number was raised to 20 in 1 year. Two farms in other areas are being developed similarly.

# Honor awards

OUR ANNUAL Honor Awards ceremony will be held at Sylvan Theater, May 15, 10:30 a. m., weather permitting. All employees are invited. The Board of Distinguished Service Awards this year consists of D. W. Brooks, general manager of the Cotton Producers Association, Atlanta, Ga.; L. B. Howard, former chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, who now heads the department of food technology, University of Illinois; James Maddox of the American International Association for Economic and Social Development; Assistant Secretary Hutchinson; Deputy Administrator Byron T. Shaw of Agricultural Research Administration; and Director of Personnel T. Roy Reid, recorder.

The Board of Superior Service Awards consists of L. Carl Fry, chairman of the Tennessee State Production and Marketing Administration Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; A. A. McCutchen, assistant regional forester, Forest Service, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; R. H. Musser, regional conservator, Soil Conservation Service, Milwaukee, Wis.; Edward J. Overby, assistant to the Secretary; Chief O. E. Reed of the Bureau of Dairy Industry; Mary A. Rokahr of Extension Service; and Mr. Reid as recorder.

# Brief but important

## Too fat? Too thin?

Would you like to know how much you should weigh and what to do about it if you don't weigh that? What should you eat, and how much, to gain or to lose weight? What basic foods *must* you have daily—then which should you add to gain and avoid to lose weight? A 4-page processed publication from Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics gives the facts. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for Consider Your Weight.

## Forest insect enemies

Insect Enemies of Eastern Forests is Miscellaneous Publication No. 657—it is a bound book (with index) of 679 pages, priced at \$2.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. It was prepared by F. C. Craighead, in charge of the Division of Forest Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, with the assistance of his colleagues. It discusses both the insects and their control.

## Feed molasses

Production and Marketing Administration has completed a Research and Marketing Act project on better marketing methods and possible new outlets for feed molasses. Used as part of the feed ration, molasses is more economical than corn whenever a bushel of corn sells for more than 6½ gallons of molasses. For more details on the subject *write* Information Branch, PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., and ask for The Marketing of Feed Molasses.

## Soybean processing

If interested in census data on soybean processing by solvent extraction, and by screw and hydraulic press, and the quantities of crude oil produced, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 421.

## Grain research

If you want to know the kinds of research projects recommended to be carried on under the Research and Marketing Act by the Grain Advisory Committee, and other facts about the committee's membership, etc., *write* Press Service, *USDA*, and ask for No. 483.

## Scientific publication

There are no immediate prospects of funds available to revive the Journal of Agricultural Research, in case you are wondering. The National Research Council recently sponsored discussions of practical difficulties facing the many scientific journals relied upon for research information. Such cost-reduction methods as standardized formats, cooperative printing arrangements, and centralized cooperative editorial and business systems were mentioned.

## How much do peaches cost?

A South Carolina peach grower estimated it costs him 75 cents now to grow a bushel of peaches, provided the weather cooperates. But it costs him an additional \$2 to put them on the market. That covers picking, packing, shipping, and marketing. So, assuming a normal crop, he starts making a profit only after the final selling price exceeds \$2.75 a bushel and if someone gave him the peaches it would still cost him \$2 a bushel to put them on the market. Don't always think the farmer is robbing you, city folk. We are paying more than ever today for labor, containers, transportation, and handling, as well as for the commodity concerned.

## Fruit news

Calmeria is a new highly productive storage grape, selected by Elmer Snyder and associate plant scientists at our Horticultural Field Station, Fresno, Calif. Olallie is a new blackberry variety that retains its fine color and firm texture though canned or frozen, a vigorous-growing, high-yielding, trailing type selected from a cross between Black Logan and Young, by George F. Waldo, *USDA* plant scientist working at Corvallis, Oreg. Procure plants of both from commercial growers and nurseries. A Broadened Attack on the Peach Industry's Problems is a talk delivered recently by Agricultural Research Administrator P. V. Cardon before the National Peach Council. It covers recent research on all phases of the peach; to get a copy *write* Press Service, *USDA*, and ask for No. 442.

## Financing the Farm Business

Look out for this new book due in April, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York City 16, at \$3 a copy. It is by I. W. Duggan, governor of Farm Credit Administration, and Ralph U. Battles, assistant chief of FCA's Economic and Credit Research Division. The book starts out by considering questions involved in leasing or inheriting a farm, but the primary subject is the principles of sound credit and where to procure it. The potential farmer is told how to get the credit he needs to buy, lease, or operate a farm without hopelessly burdening himself with debt. Part II contains 13 chapters on sources of agricultural credit including commercial banks, life-insurance companies, individuals, FCA and its banking systems, Veterans' Administration loans, Farmers Home Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration. The authors are obviously experts on their subject and the book should prove well worth purchase and study.



## For aspiring writers

They will find a good tonic in *The Big Wheel*, a novel by John Brooks (Harpers, \$2.75) which displays graphically the difficulties free-lance and staff writers can be called upon to face outside Government employment.

## Citrus preferences

BAE has completed a Research and Marketing Act project on the citrus preferences of household consumers in Louisville and in Nelson County, Ky. If interested in the results ask Bureau of Agricultural Economics for its 91-page report or *write* Press Service, USDA, and get press release No. 509.

## Archie Robertson active

The former editor of *USDA* who passed the chore over to the present editor in the fall of 1943 has published a second book since he left the *USDA*. It is called "That Old-Time Religion" and Houghton, Mifflin Co., of Boston issued it at \$3. A while ago excerpts from it appeared in *Life*.

## Property Management

This is the subject of Secretary's Memorandum No. 1251, February 14. At hearings before the House Subcommittee on Agriculture Appropriations this year a number of instances were reported by the committee's investigators which appear to call for more adequate emphasis and attention to the proper care, utilization, and disposal of property. For more details procure the Memorandum from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, Room 134-W, Ext. 3337.

## Mrs. W. R. Hill retired

Mrs. Wilhelmina R. Hill, publications distribution clerk of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, retired January 31, 1950, after more than 31 years of service in the Federal Government. For the past 19 years she has faithfully served *USDA* in meeting the tremendous volume of requests directed to EPQ for its more than 6,000 different publications on entomology and plant quarantines. Requests for copies of EPQ's publications should now be directed to Mrs. Malissa M. Warnhoff (Ext. 2251).

## McCubbin retired

Walter A. McCubbin, senior plant pathologist, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, retired January 31, 1950, after 20 years of Federal service. As an authority on both foreign and domestic plant quarantine problems, particularly in the field of plant diseases, he served in an advisory capacity to the Bureau. Prior to joining *USDA* in 1930, Mr. McCubbin was assistant director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Plant Industry and earlier served as assistant to the Dominion botanist, Ontario, Canada.

## New cranberry varieties

Stevens, Wilcox, and Beckwith are three new, large, productive cranberry varieties, the first ever to have resulted from fruit-breeding work, the joint products of *USDA* and the New Jersey and Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Stations. They came from crosses made two decades ago by H. F. Bain and H. F. Bergman of *USDA*, the original selections having been made, 1938-40, by Bain and the late R. B. Wilcox. They were named after the late Neil Stevens of *USDA* and University of Illinois, Mr. Wilcox, who was long in charge of *USDA* cranberry and blueberry research at Pemberton, N. J., and the late Charles S. Beckwith, New Jersey Station entomologist, all of whom cooperated in the early breeding work.

## The dairymen shuddered

The British Ministry of Food recently reversed itself to say that sherry wines may be called "Bristol Milk" and "Bristol Cream," adding "no one but an imbecile could connect sherry with the product of the cow!"

## Forage and pasture book

D. Van Nostrand, 250 Fourth Avenue, New York City, is soon to issue "Forage and Pasture Crops," by PMA's W. A. Wheeler, with the assistance and cooperation of other *USDA*, land-grant college, and State experiment station specialists. The book is priced at \$10 and should have great value for those interested.

## Think machines

There is a new book by Edmund C. Berkeley on the mechanical master minds called *Giant Brains: or Machines That Think* (John Wiley & Sons, \$4) for those who want to read further about these supercalculators endowed with memory which solve highly complex mathematical problems and even formulate logical truth, working unemotionally with high speed and cold accuracy.

## Field offices

A series of articles began in the Extension Service Review for January (published by the Division of Extension Information, Extension Service, *USDA*, Washington, D. C.) that might interest many of you. The first article is by Karl Knaus entitled "To Make the Office a Better Place to Work." Later articles discuss office lay-out, the office conference, system in the office, and the county office as *USDA*'s show window. While the articles are quite specifically directed at problems arising in the Cooperative Extension Service they contain many hints for betterment of any *USDA* field office at all. We suggest you hunt up the series and read it if interested.

## Better bread

More nourishing bread is on the way for many youngsters based on school-lunch recipes developed in Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics geared to the 100-portion scale, and containing more milk solids, fat, and sugar than bread made with everyday recipes and from bakers' formulas. In addition to yeast breads and rolls there are recipes for biscuits, muffins, brown bread, spoon bread, oatmeal bread, and even corn bread, all higher in nutritive value but for large-scale cooking. If interested write the Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, *USDA*, Washington 25, D. C., and ask for "Yeast and Quick Bread Recipes for the School Lunch."

## Word makers

Prof. W. H. MacIntire who heads the Chemistry Department of the University of Tennessee, was smitten by *USDA*'s item on "The Fear of Words," issue of November 7, 1949. He sent it around to his staff for comment, which was varied and amusing. He writes: "Several times we have found it desirable and even imperative to coin a word or an expression that would serve to define beyond question and to bring brevity to a text." He then cites such timesavers as "captionized," "limestoned," and "dolomited," the latter for soils that have had limestone and dolomite incorporated into them. Thus one develops such expressions as "a limed soil, a marled soil, and a slagged soil" and, after all, if Stephen in the Bible was "stoned" why cannot a soil be "limestoned"? "We believe in the adoption of any verbals that will bring brevity to a manuscript and, in particular, we deem it admissible and desirable to coin and utilize any word or expression that will dispel ambiguity."

## Far East wheat imports

The Far East Grain Mission has estimated that the Far East can be expected to maintain a market for from 90 to 120 million bushels of wheat a year, three times average prewar imports, despite anticipated declines from record postwar levels. For more details on this *write* Press Service, *USDA*, and ask for No. 501.

## Kay Nawn

Miss Kay Nawn is *USDA*'s meat specialist par excellence; she is in the Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, and meets with consumer groups all over the land telling them what Federal meat grading means and how they can buy meat by grade to better advantage. You can get from the Information Branch, PMA, Miss Nawn's article, *Federal Beef Grades Help You Shop*. But it is even better to hear her speak and, if you ever get the opportunity, do so.

## More about humus

Dr. Franklin E. Allison, Louis A. Pinck, and Mildred Sherman of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering have been tracking humus to its lair. They have learned more about this important soil organic matter than has been known hitherto, especially concerning when to add nitrogen—whether when turning under straw, cornstalks, and green manure or later when cropping, and why it is easier to maintain humus in clay than in sandy soils. For more details on this *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 502.

## M. L. Wilson back

Director M. L. Wilson of Extension Service is back from a 5-week stay in Europe along with others from the United States studying methods of strengthening the agricultural extension work over there. He states that the interchange of agricultural leaders and youth between this country and the Marshall Plan countries during recent years has been tremendously important in stimulating extension work in Europe, and that the development of effective extension work in these countries will contribute heavily to their stability, their ability to play the democratic role, and their economic recovery.

## New instrument measures cotton color

Production and Marketing Administration scientists have developed the Nickerson-Hunter Cotton Colorimeter, an automatic electronic device for determining the exact color of cotton. The instrument resulted from two decades of research by Dorothy Nickerson, Cotton Branch, PMA, and Richard S. Hunter and Marshall G. Powell of the Henry A. Gardner Laboratory Inc., Bethesda, Md. Simple in operation, it is designed for use in the cotton classing room to measure the exact color of cotton automatically for the assignment of grade. For more details *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 496.

## Lessening lettuce losses

The total loss and damage to lettuce shipments in 1948 was more than 1.7 million dollars of which about \$700,000 was attributed to package failure of the type tested recently by Production and Marketing Administration's research scientists in a Research and Marketing Act project. It developed that the use of a single strand of wire around the middle of the standard 1A crate halved the breakage in railroad shipments of lettuce. The wire-tied crates were each surrounded with a strand of 15½-gage wire at the middle or bulge at one-fourth of a cent per wrap, 1½ to 2 cents per crate, \$4.70 to \$6.25 per car. This would mean a reduction of \$350,000 in annual losses to lettuce if further work confirms these findings.



## Livestock research

If interested in the types of research recommended by the Livestock Advisory Committee to be carried on under the Research and Marketing Act *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 449.

## Electrical heating

Rural Electrification News for February-March 1950, available from Rural Electrification Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., carries rather an interesting article on Heating Homes Electrically, as well as other items of general interest.

## Locker plant facts

Frozen Food Locker Cooperatives in Illinois, 1948 is the report of a study made by L. B. Mann and Paul C. Wilkins, of FCA. It represents an investigation covering 95 locker plants operated by 36 associations. Receipts of locker plants over the country are generally increasing, but increased income is more than offset by mounting operating costs. For more details *procure* the publication directly from *Farm Credit Administration*.

## Write as you talk

Tom Swearingen, associate editor of the Record Stockman, had some useful things to say about writing before the most recent meeting of the American Dietetic Association in Denver. His remarks appear in the January issue of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, which the Library gets, under the heading "Write It the Way You'd Say It." We recommend that you look this up.

## Corn borer research lab

USDA's headquarters for European corn borer research has moved from Toledo, Ohio, to the Ankeny, Iowa, Field Station of Iowa State College. Other Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine entomologists engaged in studying various phases of control at Lafayette, Ind., and Muscatine, Iowa, will be transferred to the Ankeny headquarters. Studies of corn-plant resistance to the borer remain at Toledo. Research in Iowa will be fully cooperative between USDA and the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, W. G. Bradley directing for EPQ and Dr. H. M. Harris for the station.

## Cotton

The International Cotton Standards Conference will meet with USDA cotton experts in Washington, D. C., May 1. If you want more details *write* Press Service, USDA, and request No. 506. Production and Marketing Administration has completed a 2-year study under the Research and Marketing Act entitled "Market Outlets for Cotton in Some of the Principal Cotton Fabrics." The report gives the specific qualities and quantities of raw cotton used in manufacturing plain print cloth, wide and narrow sheetings, denim, drill, duck, osnaburg, carded and combed broadcloths, and lawn. *Procure* it from *Information Branch, PMA*.

## "Make Your Farm Pay"

This is the title of a new book from Iowa State College Press, Ames, Iowa, by Carl C. Malone, Iowa State College farm management specialist, priced at \$3.75 in cloth and \$2.50 in leatherette binding. It covers with the greatest practicality and detail such subjects as: Who should farm? where should you farm? money making—the management problem; choosing the type and size of farm; getting started; laying out the cropping system; fitting livestock into the farm plan; making the most from your livestock; putting the farm plan together; when you go to market; checking up on yourself; helpers—public and private, including USDA; and around the family table.

## Forest fire situation

Man-caused fires on the National Forests reached a postwar low last year despite heavy use by the public and dry conditions causing fire hazards. Fire-prevention campaigns are getting results; people are more careful with matches, burning tobacco, and campfires. If you want more details on the 1949 forest fire situation *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 508.

## New insect-control method

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has been experimenting with systemic poisons for the control of insects, chemicals that make plants toxic to insects. If the chemicals afterward break down into harmless compounds in a few days or weeks a great advance will have been made in insect control methods. If interested in this *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 499 to get more details.

## 1949 Ag Statistics

The 1949 edition of Agricultural Statistics has already come from the press and is available for distribution. You may get it from the information office of your own agency. It is a very useful 787-page volume with index, especially for those working on statistics or history. The Yearbook Statistical Committee of 10 is now holding meetings in preparation for the 1950 issue and suggestions for additions and improvements should be sent at once to Richard K. Smith, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA.

## Man of the year

R. Frank Kolb, for the past 14 years South Carolina's State director of Farmers Home Administration, has been selected by The Progressive Farmer as his State's "Man of the Year in Service to Agriculture." A 1920 graduate of Clemson Agricultural College, he was agricultural agent in Orangeburg County for 10 years prior to taking his present position. Mr. Kolb's many friends, highly pleased with the recognition awarded him, estimate that his service in South Carolina agriculture has vitally touched the lives of at least 40,000 farm families.

## Travel reports

You'll find two in *The Land*, for Winter (1949-50, vol. viii, No. 4), one by Nathan Koenig, assistant to the Secretary, entitled "Fellow Farmers" and well illustrated, covering observations he made in trips to Europe and Asia, and the other by Arthur P. Chew, Office of Information, entitled "Gloom, Hope, Contentment—Britain, France, and Switzerland," giving a few side lights on his trip to those countries last summer. Caroline Sherman of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and Walter C. Lowdermilk, retired from Soil Conservation Service, are also represented by contributions.

## Writer and scientist

The editor of the Scientific Monthly has been kind enough to let us have some reprints of an interesting article by F. Borrows Colton, a former newspaper man now on the staff of the National Geographic Magazine. Herein Colton discusses the relations between the scientist who performs the research and tends to lean toward incomprehensible accuracy and the popularizer who seeks to avoid comprehensible inaccuracy. He proves his conviction that scientists need good writers quite as much as science writers need capable scientists. His personal experience lends weight to his words. As president of the National Association of Science Writers Colton is himself a specialist on his subject. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and request "Some of My Best Friends Are Scientists."

## Secretary states his case

"The Extra Bushel" is the talk Secretary Brannan delivered before the National Farm Institute, Des Moines, Iowa. Herein he stated his case for agricultural plans and programs. To get a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 422.

## Alaska

USDA's new Miscellaneous Publication No. 700 is a Report on Exploratory Investigations of Agricultural Problems of Alaska, prepared by a Department task group. It makes recommendations for research and gives valuable information on the general forage and range, horticulture, and livestock problems and possibilities in Alaska.

## Materials you may want

If you want the statement on the status of Commodity Credit Corporation's price-support program as of January 31, as reported by its president, Ralph S. Trigg, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 543. If you want Secretary Brannan's exposition of the Administration's farm-price-support philosophy as given before the National Farmers Union in Denver, March 6, *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 545, The "Extra" Farm.

## Wyoming notes

J. A. Hill, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station, has retired at 70 to become permanent vice president of the University of Wyoming of which he is a graduate. \* \* \* O. A. Beath, head of the department of research chemistry at the Wyoming station, is coauthor, with Professor of Botany Sam F. Trelease of Columbia, of a new book on "Selenium."

## Visual aids workshop

A Government-wide, visual-aids workshop will be held April 24-28, sponsored by the Federal Personnel Council, with the objectives of extending the use of visual aids in training, and improving their use and preparation for special purposes. April 24 should hold something for anybody interested in or concerned with the use of visual aids in training. The full course should interest visual aids specialists, training officers, information personnel, and administrators with training responsibilities. *Contact your own training officer* for further information.

## Knudson for ICC

On February 13 the President nominated James K. Knudson as Interstate Commerce Commissioner to fill the vacancy created by the death of Carroll Miller. Mr. Knudson is a native of Utah who took his A. B. and LL. B. from George Washington and his LL. M. from Harvard Law School, and entered the Government in 1933 as attorney in the office of the general counsel of AAA. In 1935 he transferred to Office of the Solicitor where he has worked on freight rates and other transportation matters handled on behalf of the Secretary before various Federal and State regulatory commissions.

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APR 14 1950

# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR APRIL 10, 1950

## Oil on the farm

IN A REPORT entitled "Farm Consumption of Liquid Petroleum Fuels and Motor Oil," issued as FM-73, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics says that total farm consumption of liquid petroleum fuels has increased in recent years even more rapidly than the number of farm machines. Gasoline accounted for more than 70 percent of these fuels; kerosene, fuel oil, liquefied petroleum gases, and distillate were others used. In recent years, tractors have become the largest single outlet on farms for liquid petroleum fuels. Of the approximately 7.5 billion gallons of these fuels used on farms for all purposes in 1947, consumption by tractors accounted for about 40 percent, automobiles 26, household and miscellaneous farm uses 19, motortrucks 11, and stationary and mounted motors 4 percent.

Report FM-72, "Fuel and Motor Oil Consumption and Annual Use of Farm Tractors," also from BAE, says that the first large expansion in the use of machine power on farms followed immediately after World War I, continued to increase in the 1920's, until by 1930 there were more than three and one-half times as many farm tractors as in 1920. By January 1, 1949, the number of farm tractors totaled 3,500,000. Consumption of motor fuel by tractors in 1947 averaged 946 gallons per tractor, of which 80 percent was gasoline, 6 distillate, 4 Diesel fuel, 3 kerosene, and all other 7 percent. Consumption of motor oil per 100 gallons of tractor fuel averaged 2.44 gallons in 1947 and 6.74 in 1920. In both 1920 and 1930, tractors were used an average of about 400 hours each. In 1947, this had risen to 592 hours, an increase of about 50 percent. The increase in recent years reflects the increased use of wheel tractors. These reports were prepared from information supplied by about 19,000 voluntary crop reporters and from the Bureau's April 1948 enumerative survey.

## Plant camels

THE DESULTORY harmony of jungle and desert crops out in reports of roving reflective botanists. A gem of such reflection is in a recent description by Richard Evans Schultes, USDA botanist and explorer, of a new aristolochia (of the Birthwort family), a shrubby drought-resister found in a high valley of an Amazon tributary in southern Colombia. One member of the family yields a drug once but no longer thought useful in childbirth. So far no useful crop future is predicted for the new one. It stands merely as an addition to the slowly mounting list of the world's botanical riches, a bank for science and industry to draw upon as they learn more about the physical, chemical, and genetic compositions. Dr. Schultes named it *Aristolochia Amesiana*, honoring Prof. Oakes Ames of Harvard.

Before going into his meticulous description of the new discovery in both English and Latin (the universal language of botanical description), Schultes wrote briefly of the region (and in terms that are child's play to a botanist) much as a collector of antiques might talk of a New England attic where he had found an Early American furniture treasure:

The caatingas (open scrub forests composed largely of deciduous trees) of the upper Rio Negro are fascinating to the naturalist because of the curious adaptation of their flora to xerophytism (living on a short supply of water) and because of the extraordinary number of endemics (native plants, including primitive species). Every expedition brings back novelties and rare plants. Some indicate relationships with the plants of the great Venezuelan-Guianan land mass; others (like the new one described) appear to stand alone with no close allies amongst the known species of South America.

## Safety on the stairs

You may think you can use stairways without injury but many a badly injurious fall has occurred on the stairs. We have one sheet of mimeographed material which tells how to build and use stairs with safety. If you want a copy write the editor of USDA and ask for No. 557.

## On good writing

"WE ALL KNOW about the power of words, but we generally associate it with the skills of the orator and the writer, paying little attention to our own dependence on it in our daily life." Thus writes Louis J. Halle, Jr., when discussing "Raw Materials of Persuasion" in the Saturday Review of Literature for March 11, and in his forthcoming book, "On Facing the World." He continues:

Whether you are a teacher or a bureaucrat, a banker or a scientist, an engineer or an expert in Indic philology, an editor or a broker, words are the raw material with which you will be dealing most of the time. Your success will depend in greater measure than is ordinarily appreciated on your competence in using them. What you represent and what you advocate can hardly be expressed otherwise. A mastery of language is to be most earnestly cultivated, quite aside from the contribution it can make to your inner life, simply as the best means you have for dealing with the world.

Mr. Halle next discusses the difference between style and content, insisting all the time that your success as a man depends in large measure upon your command of language. He suggests constant and persistent reading of the best writing as the way to learn to write well. He tells amusingly of finding a bit of his own prose analyzed carefully in a textbook for students of composition, saying that while he felt ignorant of the rules of fine writing he had, according to this authority at least, followed them explicitly. He does not regard imitation as an evil if for a while you imitate the best before developing a style definitely your own. He insists upon the constant reading of books of which you understand little as this enables you easily to read other less difficult works that would otherwise have given you trouble. Mr. Halle also writes:

Every profession and every field of learning develops its own ponderous jargon to impress and exclude outsiders and to give those who have been initiated into it a sense of constituting an elite. \* \* \* In government we have also developed our own jargon, so that we "implement directives" but never "carry out instructions." A businessman once told me when I suggested he delete "You are advised that" from a letter he was writing that its omission would make him appear unprofessional. \* \* \* I dare say that most young government officials would in their professional work reject the language of the Gettysburg Address because it would make them appear unprofessional. For "conceived in liberty" they would say: "established in accordance with the basic premises of fundamental human rights and freedoms."

But, whereas lesser souls resort to jargon, the truly great in every field, even scientists and government officials, express themselves in plain English. Mr. Halle's article is worth reading entire.



## Secretaries aren't women?

AN ARTICLE in your July 18, 1949, issue was recalled when a field office administrator summoned his staff and suggested that they cut down on their profanity. This was prompted by the circumstance of a woman having been in a front room of the office conferring with the administrator at a time when another employee in a back room was using his cuss-tomary vocabulary in describing anything from blotters to bulldozers. The front-room administrator was dismayed that a woman had overheard the offensive words. The presumably female secretaries work day after day within earshot of half a dozen employees who speak, with varying degrees of proficiency, the same language.

What concerns us at this writing is not the pollution of the atmosphere around the shell-pink ears. We have long maintained that it is not the person who hears profanity, so much as the one who produces it, that may be damaged. But if a man has such an understanding with God that he is informed as to which blotters and bulldozers have been condemned, or is free to request a curse upon such objects, that is a deal between God and the employee. This sort of intimacy may amaze female auditors but does not necessarily harm them. What does inspire pause for thought, in viewing the foregoing episode with its expressed consideration for womanhood, is the question: What sex is a secretary? (Contributed.)

### IN EXPLANATION

We regret that we can supply you with materials offered in *USDA* only on written order, *not* via telephone or personal visit, but your note requesting such items can be wholly informal, just so it is legible and gives your name, agency and, *in the field*, your address. The editor's assistant works in a room some distance away, has another telephone extension altogether and other assignments which fully occupy her time. *All written requests will be filled just as promptly as possible.*

### RECENT RESEARCH ADVANCES

*USDA* Document No. 6, "Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists," is out in a new edition dated April 1, 1950. This is not an April fool but actually a hodge-podge of accomplishments recently made by research scientists in Agricultural Research Administration, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Production and Marketing Administration, Forest Service, Farm Credit Administration, and Soil Conservation Service. If you want a copy to inform yourselves about *USDA's* scientific progress *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for Document No. 6.

## The boss does nothing

THE FOLLOWING, originally entitled "An Executive Has Nothing To Do," has been kicking around in various publications, but not so far in *USDA*. Now it has been sent in to *USDA* for use as it appeared in "Illinois Libraries," published by the Illinois State Library, and attributed to Weston's Record (vol. 24, No. 2, 1949). So here goes:

As everybody knows—an executive has practically nothing to do—that is—except to decide what is to be done—to tell somebody to do it—to listen to reasons why it should not be done—why it should be done by somebody else—or why it should be done in a different way—

To follow up to see if the thing has been done—to discover that it has not been done—to inquire why it has not been done—to listen to excuses from the person who should have done it—to follow up to see if it has been done—to discover—

That it has been done but done incorrectly—to point out how it should have been done—to conclude that as long as it has been done it may as well be left as it is—to wonder if it is not time to get rid of a person who cannot do a thing correctly—to reflect that the person in fault has a wife and seven children and that certainly—

No other executive in the world would put up with him for another moment—and that—in all probability any successor would be just as bad and probably worse—to consider how much simpler and better the thing would have been done had he done it himself in the first place. But that would strike at the very foundation of the belief that an executive has nothing to do!

## New rabbit diets

THE SUBNORMAL growth and the liver damage suffered by rabbits fed a diet of mineralized whole milk have been studied further at the United States Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory, Ithaca, N. Y. These studies have included the partial fractionation of a growth factor from dehydrated grasses, and determinations of the effect on growth and liver damage of "purified diets," and of variously supplemented dry-skim-milk diets when fed to rabbits. Significant progress has been made in the liver-injury study, this problem being solved to the extent that purified diets and supplemented skim-milk diets can now be used as a more satisfactory basal diet for micronutrient-element studies than those previously available.

The results indicate (1) that dehydrated grasses contain a growth factor for rabbits extractable with 95 percent ethanol; (2) that "purified" diets are inadequate for normal growth and development of the rabbit unless supplemented with a source of unknown factor(s); (3) that growth is improved and liver damage less severe when corn oil is included with the fat component in "purified" diets; (4) that growth im-

proves and liver damage is less severe on diets of skim milk plus 6 percent of fat and 2 percent of corn oil; (5) that the rabbit reared on a low-fat diet of skim milk grows subnormally and develops a scaly dandruff skin deposit which can be prevented by the addition of linoleic acid to the diet; (6) that the inclusion of 0.5 percent of linoleic acid to an 8-percent-butterfat skim-milk diet enhances growth and protects the liver against severe damage; (7) that the addition of 0.5 percent of linoleic acid to a whole-milk diet does not appreciably affect liver damage; and (8) that a 0.15-percent liver-paste supplement in the whole-milk diet appeared to enhance growth.

From these results it is concluded that the rabbit requires a dietary source of the essential fatty acids. Deficiency results not only in subnormal growth but also in liver injury, the severity of damage increasing with the level of fat in the diet. Of the many diets studied, a mineralized skim-milk ration containing 8 percent of fat (6 of vegetable oil and 2 of corn oil) and the fat-soluble vitamins has produced rabbits essentially normal in growth, and with livers either normal or slightly fatty in appearance.

### HONOR AWARDS CEREMONY

The Honor Awards Ceremony will be held May 25, 1950, in Sylvan Theatre, at 10 a. m., with the Vice President of the United States as principal speaker. This change from the time and date given in *USDA* for March 27 was announced March 20.

## Brief but important

### Cotton research

If you want to know the types of research projects recommended by the Cotton and Cottonseed Advisory Committee to be carried on under the Research and Marketing Act, write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 546.

### Speech by W. I. Myers

Mr. Myers, former deputy governor and later governor of the Farm Credit Administration, and now dean of Cornell's College of Agriculture, recently delivered an address on The Economic Outlook for Agriculture and Farm Credit. Procure copies from Information and Extension Division, FCA.

### That old redwood tree

Look around in the hall closet and see if you have that old redwood tree trunk which long stood near the Department's original Red Brick Building that was torn down in 1930. One of the men who helped fell the tree for exhibition of the trunk at the Chicago Fair in the Gay Nineties would like to know what became of it. It was long featured on the *USDA* grounds and the guides for sightseers opened a door into it—it was hollow, stood maybe 30 or 40 feet tall, and had a roof over it—and told how many adults could stand within. Later it got over to the old Arlington Farms. Where it wound up no one seems to know. Didn't burn it for firewood, did they? Anybody know where the old redwood tree trunk is? You'll often see it in pictures of the Red Brick Building.



## "Chemurgy"

"The term 'chemurgy' is hard to define precisely, but I interpret it to mean the application of science and technology to the industrial processing of agricultural commodities for both food and nonfood purposes. Chemurgy involves an effort to use farm products and byproducts more effectively and to create from them new resources of foods, feeds, and industrial raw materials."—G. E. Hilbert, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, USDA.

## Farm prices and income

Farm prices have dropped an average of one-fourth in less than 2 years, though farmers still pay within 5 percent as much for what they buy as they did 2 years ago. Farm operators had a net income of nearly 18 billion dollars in 1947, which dropped to 14 in 1949, and the forecast is only 12 billions for 1950. Even at the peak the total per capita income of persons on farms was but 60 percent as high as that for persons not on farms and this income gap is now widening.

## "Foreign Agriculture"

This is an illustrated monthly issued by our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations (room 5922S, extension 2445) USDA, Washington 25, D. C., with which you might like to become more familiar. The current March issue contains articles on the world as our nursery, the USDA mission to the Eastern Hemisphere, tobacco in western Europe, the drought in Africa, and small-farm rubber production in Latin America. The magazine is well edited and of enhanced interest these days when American agriculture and world agriculture tend more and more to be one.

## Effects of farm mechanization

A. N. Johnson, State Teachers College, River Falls, Wis., has approached 60 and considers retirement. He has devoted his life to work and teaching in agricultural management. His plans and experience led him to consider *The Impact of Farm Machinery on the Farm Economy* (see *Agricultural History* for January 1950, a periodical edited by Everett E. Edwards of Bureau of Agricultural Economics) and, in a very interesting and stimulating article by that name, he set forth his views. Things are not as they were. Today a small-sized farm requires, conservatively \$6,500 worth of machinery and equipment. Soon this may rise to \$20,000 and the farmer will merely push buttons. But if he had that much money maybe he wouldn't even want to push buttons. He might prefer to just sit. Hunt the article up and read it, or maybe Professor Johnson will send you a reprint.

## Farm soil productivity

"Somehow the notion gets around that originally our farm soils were highly productive; that is productive when first plowed. Many of them were \* \* \* but most soils were not. It is through liming and fertilization, drainage, irrigation, the introduction of legumes, and a host of other practices that farmers have made their soil productive. After all, this is the important thing; not the productivity when first plowed, but the response of soils to management systems. There is no more reason for saying that large areas of the Tropics are without an agricultural future than there is for saying that large areas in the eastern United States and western Europe are without an agricultural future, simply because one gets low yields in the absence of management practices that depend upon science and industry. Science and industry are within man's control."—Dr. Charles E. Kellogg, chief of the Division of Soil Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

## Fag lag

While United States smokers vaporized 3½ billion more cigarettes in 1949 than in 1948, this was an increase of only 1 percent, whereas population increased more than that, so per capita consumption dropped from 2,455 in 1948 to 2,435 in 1949. During and since the war cigarette smoking has climbed steadily. Does this break in the climb, this fag-lag, portend a leveling off in consumption?

## Editor Advisory Committee

The Extension Editor Advisory Committee meets in Washington May 8 to 12 with Earl Richardson of Michigan as chairman. Others in the committee are Marjorie Arbour of Louisiana, Clarence Day of Maine, Louis Franke of Texas, Joe McClelland of Arizona, Hadley Read of Illinois, Jean Scheel of Oregon, and Leighton Watson of West Virginia. Some 14 agricultural experiment station editors will be meeting here around the same time too. They will confer with the chief of the Office of Experiment Stations and also visit Beltsville.

## Seed industry

C. S. Garrison, who is in charge of the Foundation Seed Project, started in 1948 at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., with Research and Marketing Act funds, addressed the fourth annual meeting of the Washington Crop Improvement Association in Spokane late in February. He stressed the fact that Washington State was in an ideal position to develop a much greater grass and legume seed industry what with the increasing market for certified seed of improved varieties and the areas being brought under irrigation in that State.

## Jump award

Secretary Brannan has named the committee which will select the recipient of the Jump Memorial Award to be made this year during the Honor Awards ceremonies in May. It consists of Dean Paul H. Appleby, Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University; Donald S. Dawson, assistant to the President; W. A. Persons, administrative assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury and president of District of Columbia Chapter, Society for Public Administration; Civil Service Commissioner Frances Perkins; and USDA's Director of Personnel, T. Roy Reid.

## What is "energy food"?

If you eat more energy food do you kick up your heels and display vivacity in all activities? Not necessarily so. If used in excess the energy foods—starches, sugars, fats—are stored as fat and you feel lethargic and plethoric rather than energetic. Foods that provide sources of energy are fuels to the body as oil or coal are to the furnace. If you engage in heavy physical activity or are growing fast, say our nutritionists, you need plenty of fuel foods, but you do not necessarily need them just because you feel listless and fatigued. You can feel that way when loaded with stores of them.

## Better maple sirup

Some time ago when the editor visited our Eastern Regional Research Laboratory at Philadelphia, a Research and Marketing Act project was just being undertaken to find what gives maple sirup its flavor. We were rather surprised to discover that no one knew at the time and that the sap lacks "maple" flavor as it comes from the tree. Now the lab finds the flavor is developed in evaporating the sap to make sirup; browning of enzymatic origin, not caramelization, evidently produces it. But some highly volatile flavoring materials probably pass off with the steam as the sap cooks down. Attempts will be made to recapture these and determine their value.

## Grasshopper control

A new leaflet from EPQ is entitled "Chlor-dane and Toxaphene for Grasshopper Control." Procure directly from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; ask for EC-11.

## Burch edits

After having been driven from a certain part of California we dare not mention by some secret agent called "smog," Dallas Burch, retiree from Bureau of Animal Industry, is editing a new book on veterinary medicine for students and farmers soon to be published by Popular Mechanics Press.

## CCC Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee of the Commodity Credit Corporation, appointed by President Truman January 31 last under the amended charter act, met for the first time in Washington, March 13-14, with the Secretary and officers and the board of directors of CCC. Members present: Elwood M. Brooks, Denver, Colo.; Seymour E. Harris, Cambridge, Mass.; Albert K. Mitchell, Albert, N. Mex.; and Serry R. Waterman, St. Johnsbury, Vt. Absent: Eugene W. Stetson, Greens Farms, Conn.

## Livestock marketing

A recently completed study under the Research and Marketing Act carried on by Bureau of Agricultural Economics shows that, from 1925 until 1948, commercial slaughtering of livestock in 12 western States approximately doubled, attaining 6 billion pounds annually. In the other 36 States slaughter increased only about one-fifth. In 1925 western slaughter accounted for only about 1 percent of the Nation's total; in 1948 for 17 percent. A preliminary report of this study appears in March "Agricultural Situation," published by BAE.

## Germes make potato slices grow

Slices of potato made to grow additional cells under stimulus from inoculation with certain bacteria were described by Wilson L. Smith, Jr., of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering before the recent Beltsville meeting of the Potomac Division, American Phytopathological Society. He used many isolates of 2 species of bacteria called *Erwinia*. A large percentage of the isolates of one of these species caused such proliferations. The genus *Erwinia* was named in honor of the late Dr. Erwin F. Smith, famous pathologist of the same Bureau. In his report, Wilson Smith described the proliferations as resembling "colorless warts" which under the microscope show a "disorganized cellular pattern."

## Improved taste

The testing of foods often gets down to plain taste. But so varied are laboratory methods of selecting taste panels, preparing food samples, establishing rating scales, and analyzing statistical findings, that the work of one group may not check that of another. In an effort to arrive at a meeting of minds on laboratory methods of taste-testing foods and to work out recommendations for needed lines of research, the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics recently gathered 71 research scientists of different types from all over the United States to look into the testing of food products by taste, after they had digested 350 bulletins and articles on methods of palatability testing. The conference closed with 10 committee reports which included, among others, the following recommendations: That a few factors and characteristics as possible should be tested simultaneously; that a small, well-selected, well-trained panel was best; and that further research is required to discover whether "know-how" is carried over in judging food products other than those on which the judges have trained. Proceedings will be published later.



## Group tenure in public lands

Group tenure offers advantages to both land users and administrators of public lands. It enables the former to achieve stability of tenure, lower costs, and conditions favorable to private operation. Operating units are stabilized by long-term grazing permits or by basing grazing privileges on preference ratings of more or less permanence. The advantages for land-managing agencies are educational, advisory, and administrative. For details see Circular No. 829, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## Charges for FS recreational areas

The Forest Service has announced that it will continue to make a small charge for public use of its larger National Forest recreation areas. Charges will be the same as when the policy was started experimentally in 1949, 50 cents a day or \$3 a week for a car party of not more than 6 campers and 25 to 50 cents for parties of not more than 6 picnickers. These charges are levied in only 50 or 60 of the largest public recreation areas where convenience and services justify. The rest of the 4,500 National Forest camp and picnic areas remain free. The experiment with charges is being continued because last year's trial was inconclusive.

## Beltsville pioneers

Chemical Activities of Fungi, by J. W. Foster, published by the Academic Press, credits Dr. R. A. Steinberg, physiologist in tobacco research with Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, and Dr. Charles Thom, retired, formerly in charge of soil microbiology research in the same bureau, as making probably the first attempt to induce mutation by directly altering the gene proteins of the cell. This discovery the author says will soon rank with Muller's discovery that fruitfly mutants could be produced by X-ray irradiation. Steinberg and Thom subjected fungus cells to nitrous acid and formed mutants. The book gives them generous credit.

## Farm land development

What are the prospects for additional farm land in the United States? In a new circular the Bureau of Agricultural Economics says that development of new land may be expected in the next few years, principally in the lower Mississippi Valley, the Coastal Plains of the South, and in the western States. Clearing, drainage, protection from floods, and irrigation will make this possible. Recent experience indicates that new land to be developed in the next 10 years by drainage and clearing will probably run to about 8 million acres; new irrigated land to about 4.5 million. As in the last few years much of the acreage brought into use will be to round out and enlarge small farms to make them more efficient.

## Missouri River Basin crops

An increase in the production of agricultural products amounting to 160 million dollars in value (1939-44 prices) is anticipated on the 5 million additional acres in the Missouri River Basin which may be brought under cultivation during the coming 30 years. That is an increase of 10.5 percent in the Basin's agricultural crop production value and of 1.5 on a national basis. More than 18,000 new farms would be created by new irrigation and fewer than a thousand by supplemental irrigation. These estimates are based upon data included in the preliminary and incomplete plans for the Basin by Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior. A Bureau of Agricultural Economics report supplies additional information.

## Phosphorus

The leading paper in Science for March 3, 1950, was Phosphorus in Soils and Fertilizers, by F. W. Parker who heads the Soils Group, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Beltsville, Md.

## Good wheat resists 2,4-D

When 2,4-D is used to kill off weeds that compete with wheat there is always a possibility of injury to the grain as well. Our experts find considerable variation in the resistance of wheat varieties to 2,4-D treatments and today, in making crosses for future use, they prefer to work with parents that have proved resistant to spray injury.

## Large-family economics

Our specialists in the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics conclude from their studies that, though large families in cities spend more for food than do small, their expenditure per person is less, members of the larger families eating more cheaply than those of the small by about \$2.18 each. But members of large families eat appreciably less meat, poultry, fish, and fresh vegetables. Among the meats they eat more bologna, frankfurters, and other lunch meats per person.

## Pulling the plug

Specialists in Rural Electrification Administration say that it is best to turn off electrical appliances before pulling the plug—whether washing machine, vacuum cleaner, toaster, heater, or portable lamp—for pulling the plug when the appliance is in operation shuts off the flow of electricity gradually. Sparks occur and the prongs get burned. Turning off the appliance by its own switch produces an immediate, clean current break. The plug may then be removed safely and without danger of sparking or burning.

## Rice production and costs

Rice has recently ranked third or fourth in total value among Arkansas crops and second as a source of cash farm income for the State. Recently 155 Arkansas farms were studied on which rice occupied about half the cropland, averaging 200 acres each in 1947. Rice farming requires a heavy investment in machinery and equipment even on small scale which, for a farm with 240 acres of cropland on which no row or hay crops were grown averaged \$17,100 at 1947 prices, if the rice was harvested by combine, or \$14,815 if by a binder. Fourteen hours of man-labor per acre were required with a self-propelled combine and 23 with a binder. A bulletin issued jointly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station reports this study giving also estimates for labor, power, and material requirements for enterprises on the various farms.

## Scottish agriculture

Great Britain set up a government department to deal with agriculture in 1889, the same year in which the head of USDA assumed Cabinet rank. A Board of Agriculture was then established and a similar board was set up in Scotland in 1911, which became the Scottish Department of Agriculture in 1928, but was given a responsible minister only in 1939. In 40 years that department has grown from an original staff of 50 to one of nearly 2,200. It is responsible for the management of 867,000 acres of land, say 4½ percent of Scotland's total land surface, much of it acquired under the various forestry acts or under wartime conditions, but including also 36,000 acres of arable and 308,000 of pasture land. The growth of the department has been obligatory because of the many British agricultural acts passed during recent years. For more details see The Department of Agriculture for Scotland, by Sir Patrick Laird, in the winter 1949 issue of Public Administration (London) which our Library has.

## Potato research

If you would like to know the kinds of research projects recommended to be carried out under the Research and Marketing Act by the Potato Advisory Committee write the editor of USDA and ask for No. 603.

## Regional 4-H Club Camp

The Third Annual Regional 4-H Club Camp for colored members will be held at the Negro land-grant college for Virginia, the Virginia State College of Petersburg, on invitation of its president, Dr. R. P. Daniel, August 8 to 15, inclusive. T. M. Campbell will be director of the camp.

## Former USDA staff members

The lead article in Science for March 10 is by W. D. Ellison, formerly of SCS and now with the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, and is entitled "Soil Erosion by Rainstorms"; it deals with all forms of erosion. Dr. M. C. Merrill, retired USDA Chief of Publications, has a thoughtful letter in the same issue on the publication of research.

## Ag centers in Texas

Extension Editor Louis Franke writes us from College Station, Tex., that that State has 21 county agricultural centers where all or most of the USDA workers are housed. They were built variously by WPA, NYA, and county commissioners' court funds. The movement was gathering considerable headway before the war but died out when materials got short and has not been revived. Only one county, Neufches, is building a center at this time.

## TO GET PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

Washington employees can best get printed publications at Room 104A, to the right as you enter the Administration Building. Field employees address: Inquiries and Distribution Service, Division of Publications, Office of Information, USDA. Extension workers: Clear your order through State publication distribution officers when you want 50 or more copies of one publication; address other orders to Division of Extension Information, Extension Service, USDA, Washington, D. C. Please do not ask the Editor of USDA for copies of such publications as he has no stock of them. He stocks only items for which you are told to write the Editor of USDA.

## "WRITE THE EDITOR OF USDA"

More than half of you who write in to the editor improperly or incompletely address your letters or postals, yet the editor's full name and address is always given in the last back-page column of each issue. To avoid delay and to facilitate the work of the post office, address individuals by name and have the address otherwise complete. And always give your own address—many of you modestly omit that—including your agency's name.

April 10, 1950

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR APRIL 24, 1950

## Chinese farming

THE ARCHAIC PATTERN of Chinese agriculture, rooted as it is in centuries of tradition, is a hard one to change. Recently a team of three agricultural engineers—J. B. Davidson of Iowa State, Howard F. McColly of Michigan State, and Archie A. Stone, formerly of Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute—spent 2½ years in China looking into its farming. International Harvester and 24 cooperating U. S. commercial firms were responsible for this Point IV type of assignment. The mission reported that even though 2½ years of educational work and a working fund of \$400,000 made little immediate imprint, some seeds of agricultural progress were planted, engineering training was given a number of young Chinese, and guidance was provided to leading Chinese agricultural schools.

Chinese farm plots are small and irregular, better adapted to hand tilling than to modern machinery, with ditches and dikes making jigsaw barriers everywhere. Farm equipment is of Biblical times and implement dealers, hardware stores, garages, and filling stations occur only in the biggest cities. Average gross income per farm is \$50 a year, represents the work of a half-dozen persons and, with taxes, leaves little for investment in equipment. Social customs—such as the necessity for leaving some grain in each field for the gleaners—add to the difficulty of using American machines which do a thorough pick-up job. Canals and paths form roads to market and farmers often walk miles carrying their produce; surpluses can easily occur within a few miles of starvation because transportation is so poor.

It was found that the 1½-horsepower garden tractor which, with all attachments, costs about as much as a water buffalo, can plow much more area per day than the animal. Chinese hand methods require 260 man-hours per acre of wheat, whereas 13 will do using imported U. S. machinery, and a tractor-mower will cut as much grass in 10 minutes as 10 men could in a full day by hand. But the Chinese are ambitious and intelligent; young Chinese quickly become good mechanics. They are handicapped in getting ahead, however, by obstacles like raids by bandits and by tax gatherers. Some parts of China are ready for mechanization but internal stability must precede farm modernization.

Never miss an opportunity to make others happy, even if you have to leave them alone to do it.

## Livestock population

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS turned upward during 1949 after 5 successive years of decline. The increase of 2 percent placed the total only slightly below the 1940-41 level, but still 16 percent below the January 1, 1944, peak. Meat animals—cattle, hogs, and sheep—were up 3 percent, or 17 percent above the pre-war period. Milk animals—milk cows, heifers, and heifer calves for milk—were up 1 percent, thus ending a 5-year decline, the longest period of decline in the Nation's milk cows on record. On January 1 this year there were 24,625,000 head of cows and heifers 2 years old and over being kept on our farms after reaching a low in the early spring of 1949. The number of chickens on farms, excluding commercial broilers, was up 7 percent, pullet numbers having gained 12 percent as farmers raised 17 percent more chickens, though hens dropped 2 percent.

For cattle, the 1949 upturn marks a definite upswing in the cycle and, barring drought or severe economic disturbances, their numbers are likely to increase for several years. Assuming continuance of the 1949 rate of increase cattle numbers should return to the 1945 level by 1952-53. The increase in milk cows is the first for 5 years and indicates less rigid culling of herds; the sharpest upturn in milk-cow numbers during 1949 occurred in the southern dairy States east of Texas. The number of milk cows in the U. S. has tripled since 1867 and, except for rare and brief downturns, the trend has been steadily upward prior to the recent 5-year decline. Poultry and egg production was on the increase throughout most of 1949 following favorable prices, and the baby chick output was 22 percent above 1948, and also the third largest on record. Commercial broiler production was the largest on record.

## FHA loans

SOME 1,600 county Farmers Home Administration offices offer supervised credit to American farmers. The supervisors who staff these offices help willing and able farm families who cannot get adequate credit elsewhere plan and carry out improvement for better farming and farm living. To fit local needs each county supervisor has the help of a 3-farmer advisory county committee. This local guidance, coupled with an extremely flexible loan program, has helped FHA meet a variety of credit problems for low-income farmers. Here, in brief, are the main types of loans available—procure further details from any FHA office:

Operating loans based on better farming plans run 1 to 5 years at 5 percent, are individually limited to \$3,500 a fiscal year and to \$5,000 outstanding indebtedness, and to meet such needs as equipment, livestock, fertilizer, feed, seed, and other operating costs.

Farm-ownership loans, direct or from private capital backed by Government-insured mortgages, which may run for 40 years at 4 percent to buy, enlarge, or develop efficient family-type farms. They are available to tenants, sharecroppers, or farm laborers.

Water-facilities loans made in 17 western States which may extend to 20 years at 3 percent, to enable operators to install or repair water or irrigation facilities. Groups may organize as incorporated associations to borrow larger amounts.

Farm-housing loans under the Housing Act of 1949, which are for farm owners otherwise unable to finance needed repair or construction of houses and other farm buildings, may run for 33 years at 4 percent interest. Like all Farmers Home loans, they carry veterans' preference.

Disaster loans, made only in disaster loan areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture, enable disaster-struck farmers to continue operations but do not compensate for disaster losses or refinance existing indebtedness.

## SAFETY IN THE OFFICE

Have you achieved safety in the office? Office of Personnel has issued USDA Accident Standard No. 1 covering safety in offices. If you have not seen or received a copy and want to know how to prevent accidents in the office, ask your own personnel training officer or write Division of Personnel Relations and Safety, Office of Personnel, USDA.



## New plant preservation

A NEW METHOD for preserving herbarium specimens with minimum shrinkage and for convenient examination over a long time has been announced by Dr. Hamilton P. Traub of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. It consists primarily in putting the plant specimens—flower, leaf, stem—between two sheets of moisture-permeable cellophane or cellulose acetate film so they may be stapled on herbarium sheets where they can be examined by simply turning the film preparations. Thus the specimens may be examined from either side. Dr. Traub emphasizes the importance of porous films which permit the water from the plant tissue to pass out when the specimens are put through the drying process.

Dr. Traub, who is working on induced mutations, developed the method to keep plants for comparison of the old and the new (mutation). He sometimes sections the flowers longitudinally and preserves both parts side by side. Sometimes he cuts out the petals, stamens, etc., and mounts them in a group. He fastens the two sheets of cellophane together at the edges with pieces of transparent gummed tape and says they could be fastened by sealing with a hot iron. When a mounting has been set up he puts it in a plant press between blotters and corrugated aluminum dividers familiar to botanists and dries in a drying oven at 60° C. for a few hours. He sometimes dries further in a box heated with light bulbs. He fastens the finished set-up to the herbarium sheet at one edge for convenience in examining either side. Some of his specimens more than a year old are in good condition and have retained colors nearer the original than similar ones prepared by the old method. He has published details in a botanical journal (*Phytologia*, March 1950).

## Better coffee production

More coffee for us and more income for Central America are to be expected as a result of cooperative research by United States and Central American scientists in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica. Selection is for the first time being applied to get better varieties; serious efforts are being made to combat diseases of the coffee tree and to weed out "loafer" or low-producing trees. When the facts developed by research are put to full use coffee planters in Central America can probably double or even treble their yields. Guatemalan trees today yield from one-tenth of a pound to as much as 14 pounds per year, the average being 1 pound which, by the use of superior strains and cultivation methods, should be raised to 3 or 5 pounds or even more. The work is part of a broad program for agricultural improvement in Central America to which our principal gift is technical assistance.

## For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment were recently awarded employees, as indicated below. Reasons for the increases are given in P-Memo 750, Supplement 5, of the Office of Personnel.

*Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry:* Mildred S. Bateman, secretary, Washington, D. C.; Thomas S. Michener, Jr., architectural engineer, Wyndmoor, Pa.

*Farmers Home Administration:* John R. Mullin, farm management supervisor, Martinsburg, W. Va.; Ray Shoff, farm management supervisor, Stanley, N. Dak.

*Production and Marketing Administration:* Robert Bier, marketing specialist, Washington, D. C.; Michael T. Coogan, marketing specialist, Los Angeles, Calif.; William L. Evans, marketing specialist, Washington, D. C.; Erma R. Rogers, auditor, Washington, D. C.; Margaret M. Sinkula, accountant, Washington, D. C.; Walter A. Stroud, claims examiner (supervisor), Washington, D. C.

*Soil Conservation Service:* William E. Boundy, purchasing clerk, Bozeman, Mont.; Edward B. Keng, soil conservationist, Sonora, Tex.; Dudley T. Mann, soil conservationist (operations), Fredericksburg, Tex.; Ronald B. Rakow, voucher examiner, Lincoln, Nebr.; Lee G. Thatcher, soil scientist (land classification and survey), Kemmerer, Wyo.

## Brief but important

### Sugar research

If you would like to know the kinds of research projects recommended to be carried out under the Research and Marketing Act by the Sugar Advisory Committee write Press Service, USDA, and request No. 635.

### Dairy-herd improvement

There are more than a million cows now in dairy-herd-improvement associations, making an all-time high. If you would be interested in more details about these associations write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 624.

### Adrian Fox honored

Adrian Fox, director of conservation education for Soil Conservation Service in Omaha, has been announced the winner of the second annual Nebraska conservation trophy, especially for his conservation literature directed at children.

### Webster to Europe

About the middle of March Keith Himebaugh, director of information for USDA, returned from Europe where he had spent 3 months assisting ECA to set up agricultural information centers in the Marshall Plan countries. At the end of March Associate Director of Information, R. L. Webster went over to complete the job, also expecting to remain about 3 months with headquarters in Paris.

### Stakman speaks

Dr. E. C. Stakman, world-famous plant pathologist, discoverer of physiologic specialization in grain rust fungi, and head of the department of plant pathology and botany at Minnesota, recently addressed the Potomac Division of the American Phytopathological Society on genes, rusts, and the world, under the title "Science in Human Affairs." At the same Beltsville, Md., meeting the giant cyclone dust collector, used to clean the air in heavy industries, was cited by Dr. Ian W. Tervet as his inspiration for the development of a miniature glass or metal spore collector for use in research.

## National Forest board

If you want the names and biographies of the five members of the National Forest Advisory Board of Appeals, selected from USDA agencies other than Forest Service, as announced by the Secretary March 28, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 759.

## "Travel and Its Meaning"

The Scientific Monthly has kindly sent us some reprints of Alan Gregg's article by this title in its March issue. Dr. Gregg discusses the benefits of travel with especial reference to scientists. If you want a copy write the editor of *USDA* and request it by title.

## Dr. Annand dies

Dr. Percy N. Annand, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, died March 29 after an illness of several months, aged 51. A native of Colorado who took his degrees at Colorado State and at Stanford, he became a USDA entomologist in 1929 and, in 1939, became assistant chief of EPQ, becoming chief in 1941.

## USDA's 68 percent of Potomac phytos

The Potomac Division of the American Phytopathological Society with 68 percent of its membership from the Department (and 60 percent from Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering), recently held its annual meeting at the Plant Industry Station. Besides having an extensive program of papers, a new set of officers was elected: President, Dr. C. E. Cox of Maryland succeeds Dr. C. L. Lefebvre of the OES; vice-president, Dr. S. P. Doolittle of PISAE; J. B. Demaree, PISAE, continues as secretary-treasurer; and Dr. Lefebvre succeeds Dr. Paul R. Miller (head of Plant Disease Survey) as councilor, the representative on the board of the parent society.

## New publications

New Farmers' Bulletin No. 2013, "Containers in Common Use for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables," describes the numerous types and sizes of containers used for shipping these products and is available from Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA. \* \* \* USDA Bibliographical Bulletin No. 11 is by Dean H. Rose and Harold T. Cook of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and is entitled "Handling, Storage, Transportation, and Utilization of Potatoes: A Digest of Information on the Subject Published Mostly from 1938 to 1948," and is available from Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

## Wider cotton use

A workshop conference conducted at our Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans, attend by the personnel of the Laboratory and representatives of cooperating experiment stations, recently discussed some possible new industrial uses for processed cotton developed at the Laboratory. A cotton yarn wholly soluble in water was displayed which would be of value in packaging food products and as a scaffolding fiber for making novelty textile fibers. A process was explained which produces a dish towel that absorbs more water, soils less easily, and dries out more rapidly. Other processes impart to cotton a strong degree of heat and rot resistance without impairing the original characteristics of the fiber, or enable cotton to take up certain wool dyes, or impart flameproofing qualities to the fiber. Ask Information Division, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, for more details.



## Prisoner makes good

The prize of Washington State Prison, Walla Walla, a 10-year-old registered Holstein, has set a new State butterfat production record of 1,083.7 pounds while producing 27,514 pounds of milk during a 305-day lactation period that ended in January. Cheers for this convict, please.

## Chinchilla—mink

New leaflet No. 266 is "Chinchilla Raising," and is by Charles E. Kellogg, Fur Farming Investigations, Bureau of Animal Industry, who is also the coauthor, along with Charles F. Bassett and Robert K. Enders, of Circular No. 801 on "Mink Raising," issued in September 1948.

## Hop board

The 18 members of the Hop Control Board, and their alternates, have been selected to administer the Federal marketing agreement and order regulating the handling of hops and hop products produced in Oregon, California, Washington, and Idaho. If interested in details write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 728.

## Evans to Albert

Charlie Evans, assistant regional forester in charge of cooperative Federal-State forestry programs in the South since 1927, has retired and been succeeded by Frank Albert. Mr. Evans, a native of Wisconsin and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin who took his master's in forestry at Yale, has had 28 years of continuous service in the Northwest and the South. Mr. Albert, a native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of that State's Forest School, has been in charge of the division of lands for the southern region, Forest Service, and has had 21 years experience in various parts of the South.

## Returned travelers say—

Many USDA staff members returned either from Japan or from the Marshall Plan countries in Europe attest to the paucity of agricultural extension and information. Agricultural research exists; agricultural information exists; but there is reluctance, based largely on a class system with caste implications, on the part of Government personnel to get out among the farmers, talk to them face to face, and demonstrate approved agricultural practices. One of the biggest jobs our people have under Point 4 in agricultural fields is to show the value of spreading existing information among actual tillers of the soil where it will do the most good. USDA information and extension workers are assisting greatly to this function on their trips abroad.

## Isomaltose from cornstarch

Isomaltose, a rare sugar that has heretofore lived a theoretical existence, has been isolated from starch in crystalline form for the first time by chemists working at our Northern Regional Research Laboratory, under a cooperative agreement with the Corn Industries Research Foundation. A method of preparing isomaltose in quantity for further study has also been perfected. Yields of around 5 percent have been obtained from waxy or glutinous cornstarch and from the nonlinear, or amylopectin, fraction of ordinary cornstarch. This is an accomplishment long sought by carbohydrate chemists and technical workers engaged in the industrial use of starch. This work is of importance not only for the utilization of starch, but also in providing information of direct interest in grain processing by fermentation, the employment of starches as sizing agents in textiles, the production of modified starches for adhesives and other uses, and the chemical conversion of starch into sweetening agents such as sirups and dextrose sugars.

## Feed research

If interested in the recommendations of the Feed Advisory Committee for projects under the Research and Marketing Act write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 681.

## The turkey dollar

BAE has issued a report on a study carried out under the Research and Marketing Act which shows how the consumer's turkey dollar is split with western farmers. Called "Marketing Western Turkeys," the report appears in March "Marketing and Transportation Situation" issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, where it may be procured from the Division of Economic Information. A summary of the project may be obtained by writing Press Service, USDA, and asking for No. 687.

## Newcastle disease

Bureau of Animal Industry scientists have recently turned to the theory that control of Newcastle disease might possibly be attained by using disinfectants on hatching eggs if these did not injure hatchability. Two percent lye, 1-percent quaternary ammonium disinfectant, and 0.1-percent sodium orthophenylphenate solutions were used experimentally, the eggs being immersed for 5 minutes without ill effect on hatchability.

## Egg quality in the Northeast

An average of 9 out of every 10 eggs examined in a recent marketing study in 6 northeastern States were of high quality when sold to wholesalers by producers. The study was made by the USDA, with the States cooperating, and has been issued by the Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station under the title "Marketing Practices and Egg Quality, 1948-49." It is available also from the Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, Washington, D. C. Or you can write Press Service, USDA, for release No. 685 which summarizes the study.

## Dillon Myer at Indian Affairs

Dillon S. Myer, formerly of USDA, has been nominated by the President for Commissioner of Indian Affairs. A graduate of Ohio State who was long in the Ohio cooperative extension work, Dillon entered AAA when he came to USDA and was later assistant chief of SCS; he has been subsequently head of the War Relocation Authority and of the Public Housing Administration and, since 1948, president of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs. A gifted administrator, Dillon is perennially in demand. The Indian problem is largely agricultural and will bring him back into this field to some extent.

## Now honey!

There's honey and honey, including the Scottish heather kind which is said to cure what ails you but is rather expensive over here. Honey expert Harold J. Clay of Production and Marketing Administration says that most honey selling in grocery stores is a liquid blend of different honeys, uniform in color, flavor, and consistency. Actually natural honeys range from dark, rich-flavored buckwheat to the water-white, delicately flavored fireweed honey of the Northwest. Honeys from sweetclover, white and alsike clover, and alfalfa have great commercial importance in this country. Florida offers orange-blossom, tupelo, and wild thistle honey and a fine light honey from lima-bean blossoms has been produced in California and on Maryland's Eastern Shore. To learn more about local honeys ask the bee inspector of your State department of agriculture or the extension apiarist at your State college of agriculture.

## Greenbug bested

Farmers were never before able to protect their wheat, oats, or barley from greenbugs, but our entomologists now find that dusts containing parathion and tetraethyl pyrophosphate sprays are quite effective. For more details on this write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 674.

## Agricultural Research Center

New Miscellaneous Publication No. 697, The Agricultural Research Center, gives the best summary yet prepared about this farm research institution at Beltsville, Md., and its facilities. Procure as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*, whose editor does not have copies.

## Europe's fats and oils outlook

There is a new report out on this subject by Dr. L. J. Norton, covering a project carried out under the Research and Marketing Act. If you want a copy of this 34-page document write Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA, and ask for "Export Outlook for the United States Fats, Oils, and Oilseeds in Selected European Countries."

## Low-cost farm-home plans

Minimum requirements for developing low-cost farm-home plans have been established tentatively in a series of 6 regional conferences called by Assistant Secretary Hutchinson as a preliminary step in preparing plans for low-cost farm houses under the Housing Act of 1949. The plans will be developed at Beltsville, Md., and at cooperative land-grant institutions for each region, many of them designed especially for farmers eligible for loans.

## Farm homes for the Northeast

The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and 29 State agricultural experiment stations which have cooperated in the project have issued through Cornell University Press a \$4.50 report entitled "Farm Housing in the Northeast." Based on a survey conducted under the Research and Marketing Act, the publication tells the kind of houses northeastern farm families would like when they build or remodel their farm homes. If you want a 2-page mimeographed description of what the publication contains write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 712.

## USDA reorganization

Pursuant to the Reorganization Act of 1949, the President, on March 13, transmitted to the Senate and House, Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1950, relating to USDA. The principal objective of the plan is to provide the Secretary with complete authority to arrange and organize the Department as he may desire and to provide such delegation to subordinates as may be necessary. The order also provides for 3 additional assistant secretaries—one of them an administrative assistant secretary appointed under Civil Service. All of these proposals are in accord with recommendations of the Hoover Commission.

## Yearbook scores again

"Among the thousands of publications coming from official Washington," says the New York Herald Tribune for March 19, "none in the field of plants compares with the Yearbook of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Each volume presents a thorough study of some subject important to the nation, and this year it is trees. Only a full review would do it justice, but it may be summarized as the work of experts, with articles timely, practical, well illustrated and interesting." USDA's Director of Information, Keith Himebaugh, found the Yearbooks generally sought after and highly praised wherever he went in Europe.



## What tea towels are best?

If interested in a fairly complete answer to this question by Adela Ginter, Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, Columbia, Mo., write the editor of *USDA* and ask for a mimeographed sheet entitled "Tea Towel Test."

## John Hodge honored

John Hodge, research chemist at our Northern Regional Research Laboratory in Peoria, was honored recently with an award presented by Ward Chapel (A. M. E.) Wilberforce Club for outstanding contributions to racial understanding and advancement during 1949. Presentation of 10 such awards climaxed Negro History Week.

## Castor-beans for cotton

Oklahoma farm leaders are showing considerable interest in castor-beans as a crop to replace some cotton and peanuts. Dr. D. L. Van Horn, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, who is in charge of castor-bean-breeding studies at Stillwater, believes that the crop has good possibilities in the area.

## Navajo sheep in Guatemala

If you are interested in our cooperative project with the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture to extend Navajo sheep improvement in Guatemala, and to improve the breeding and management of native sheep whose long coarse wool is important to the Indian handicrafts of this country, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 658.

## Protein analysis

Research Achievement Sheet No. 129 (H) tells about the development of rapid and accurate methods of analyzing proteins which have made it possible to speed up the evaluation of proteins from different sources on a basis of their amino-acid content. This work was done in the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics; all pertinent details will be found on the sheet mentioned, which is available from the Agricultural Research Administration, *USDA*.

## Holly L. Hauter dies

Mr. Hauter, assistant chief of the Farm Ownership Division, Farmers Home Administration, died March 22. A native of Illinois he first graduated from Purdue, took his master's there, and did further graduate work at Cornell, Harvard, and University of Wisconsin. He became assistant director of extension in New Mexico in 1920 and regional director for FHA, then Resettlement Administration, in Amarillo, Tex., in 1935, coming to Washington in 1940.

## Goldenrod oil

Sweet goldenrod, a variety that grows wild from southern New Hampshire to Florida and west to Missouri and Texas, has been found by chemists to yield a colorless oil with a pleasant odor similar to that of anise, the conventional licorice flavor—batches of 150-250 pounds of the plant giving 3 to 5 pounds of the oil. The plant scarcely needs cultivation beyond control of weeds and grass. The oil may soon be used to flavor candy or chewing gum.

## Aged in the wood

Forest Service says that while a gray birch is old at 40, the sugar maple lives up to 500 years, some oaks and junipers make 2,000 and the giant sequoias are believed to be about 4,000 years old. Methuselah must have had some tree in him. Senile trees have difficulty providing water for their vital functions, less food is carried to their growing points, they contain less water, their leaves become smaller, their wounds heal less easily, and more dead branches appear. Such are the infirmities of age in the wood.

## Farm youth exchange

This year 43 young rural Americans have been selected to spend the summer on farms in 15 or more European countries as participants in the International Farm Youth Exchange project. If you want to know who they are, whence they come, and where they are going write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 741.

## Tebbe FS general inspector

Charles L. Tebbe, director of the Northern Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Missoula, Mont., has been appointed general inspector at the Washington office of Forest Service to assume his new duties July 1. He has been succeeded by Dr. George M. Jemison who has been chief of forest management at the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, N. C.

## Dr. Simms returns from Mexico

Dr. B. T. Simms, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, is back from Mexico with a first-hand view of the foot-and-mouth disease eradication program. He confirms the excellent progress—that it is quite probable the disease will be entirely eradicated. However, Dr. Simms points out that this has not yet been accomplished, and now is certainly not the time to become complacent. He emphasizes to livestock owners and producers, State livestock sanitary officials, and representatives of the *USDA* that the job ahead is still a long and difficult one.

## Trigg on commodity holdings

This is the title of a very informative statement by Ralph S. Trigg, President of the Commodity Credit Corporation and Administrator of the Production and Marketing Administration, before the House Committee on Agriculture, March 30. Within our space limitations it is impossible even to summarize the operations of CCC and PMA in the fields of price support and surplus disposal. Yet we should all have some grasp of these matters. For a copy of this statement write the editor of *USDA* and ask for the Trigg statement.

## Test for honeydew on cotton

Honeydew is the partly digested sap excreted by aphids, a kind of lice that feed on cotton plants during growth. It usually contains sugars and other carbohydrate materials. The aphids deposit it on cotton plants where rain or dew dissolves it, spreads it into the fibers, and it later gums up the cotton mill machinery. Unfortunately its presence cannot be detected easily until trouble develops but now our Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, La., has developed a simple chemical test that can be used to detect the presence of honeydew on cotton. For details on this address the Press Service, *USDA*, and ask for Release No. 723.

## Three new publications

New Technical Bulletin No. 983 is "Biological Control of the European Corn Borer in the United States," by W. A. Baker, W. G. Bradley, and C. A. Clark of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. \* \* \* New Miscellaneous Publication No. 695 is "Industrial Alcohol, A Study of the Technology, Production, and Uses of Alcohol in Relation to Agriculture," by P. Burke Jacobs, Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. \* \* \* New Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 3 is "Generalized Types of Farming in the United States, Including a List of Counties in Type-of-farming Regions and Subregions," prepared in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Procure these and all other printed publications not from the editor of *USDA*, but as often explained in *USDA*.

## Iceland's green grass

When returning from the International Grassland Conference in Holland last summer, *USDA's* forage-crop agronomist, Dr. Olaf Aamodt, stopped off and took a look at Iceland's grass agriculture in cameo. Most grazing on native pastures was by sheep, but the major farm activity centered around dairy cattle. Dr. Aamodt saw that grass was Iceland's only major renewable resource and listed what he thought the Icelanders might do for its maintenance and improvement, including white clover as the principal legume.

## "When do we eat?"

Investigations carried on at Yale a while ago indicated that the human organism functions more efficiently on four light than on three heavy meals daily. Wartime industrial plants provided snacks and time to eat them, morning and afternoon, and said this increased worker productivity. A department store has noonday troubles because customers swarm in then and if the help has swarmed out to lunch, that's bad. So Chicago's Marshall Field & Co. suggested that clerks volunteer to combine the 1-hour lunch period with their two 15-minute rest periods, morning and afternoon, and instead take 45 minutes off sometime during the morning and again during the afternoon—but no midday lunch period. The system pepped up the volunteers who took their breaks at 10:30 or 11:15 a. m. and 2:30 or 3:15 p. m. See more about this in *Business Week*, February 11, page 94; Library has it.

## The broadcasting scientist

The Natural Sciences Department of UNESCO has issued a paper on "The Theory and Practice of Popular Science"; it is by David S. Evans who, among other things, discusses the use of radio as a medium for making science understood by the masses, saying: "The bugbear of the radio producer is the scientist who arrives with a script in formal language which its author will not allow to be altered at all. It is not a question of scientific integrity—producers are ready to respect that—but of intelligibility in broadcasting, about which the scientist knows next to nothing. What may happen is that the producer will read the script and confess himself fogged. The scientist's reply will be the colloquial one, 'Well, what I really mean is this . . .'. These colloquial words should be recorded at once and used in the script in place of the former stilted phrases. Broadcasting is so intimate a medium that the form of expression should be light and easy. If you normally wave your arms about or gesture with your hands when speaking, do so in front of the microphone. It will make you feel more comfortable and lend more naturalness to your delivery. Finally, do not commit suicide when you hear a recording of your own voice, however great the temptation. There is nothing so shameful as the sound of one's own voice, but it is not really necessary to apologize for the noises you inflict on others—you have been doing it all your life in ignorance and your friends have long since forgiven you."

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Ag 844



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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR MAY 8, 1950

## Under Secretary resigns

UNDER SECRETARY A. J. Loveland, who has served as such since June 30, 1948, has tendered his resignation to the President. A real dirt farmer of great intelligence, modesty, and charm, he had previously been Director of the Agricultural Conservation Programs Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, a position he assumed in December 1947. He returns to his farm in Iowa with high praise from the President.

Mr. Loveland has been a farmer since 1914, operating in Bremer County, Iowa. In 1935 he was elected Jackson Township AAA Committeeman and then Bremer County Committeeman the same year. In 1941 he became chairman of the Iowa State AAA Committee. His geniality has won him many friends in Washington, D. C., and they face his leaving with real regret.

## Billion-dollar States

FIVE STATES ONLY topped the billion-dollar mark in cash receipts from farm marketing during 1949 as compared with 11 in 1948, the same 11 that led the parade in 1949, but of which 6 dropped below the billion-dollar level. Only five States had higher cash receipts in 1949 than in 1948—Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico because of beef and cotton marketing; Florida as a result of higher citrus prices; and Delaware with a heavy broiler output.

Among the big three Texas advanced from third place in 1948 with a record of just under 2 billion to No. 1 place in 1949 with \$2,151,000,000; California, the 1948 leader, dropped to second place in 1949 with \$2,027,000,000; and Iowa, which stood second in 1948, placed third in 1949 with \$1,994,000,000. Illinois with \$1,703,000,000 and Minnesota with \$1,145,000,000 were fourth and fifth in rank in 1949.

The next six States that topped a billion dollars in cash receipts from marketing in 1948 came in thus in 1949: Missouri, 944; Wisconsin, 940; Kansas, 934; Nebraska, 918; Indiana, 916; and Ohio, 912 million dollars. Other States with cash receipts of more than a half billion in 1949 were: New York, 842; Pennsylvania, 762; North Carolina, 712; Michigan, 677; Oklahoma, 622; Kentucky, 528; Arkansas, 528; South Dakota, 527; and Washington, 506 million dollars.

REMEMBER FLAG DAY—JUNE 14

## Vandalism or murder?

LAST SUMMER a young tourist family visited a national forest recreational area in Oklahoma. There was a beautiful lake for boating and swimming. As the mother and her children stood on the boat dock her 4-year-old son fell into deep water. She screamed, then looked at the stand where she could see a sign reading "Life Preserver," but the preserver was not there. It had been stolen or destroyed by vandals. Because the father, a guard, and a heroic woman who could swim were nearby the child was rescued and it recovered after artificial respiration. But for this prompt action and general cool-headedness there would have been a different ending to the story and the vandal who removed or destroyed the life preserver would have been a murderer.

Such vandalism in recreational areas is large in scope and extent. The deliberate destruction of benches, chairs, ovens, and other property, and the strewing about of trash of all sorts greatly increases operating expenses. In certain circumstances careless vandalism can even cause loss of a life. USDA employees: Refrain from such careless destructive acts when you are in recreational areas and report any vandalism or destruction by others about which you know to the officials in charge of the areas. For vandalism can be murder!

## Dr. P. N. Annand

DR. PERCY N. ANNAND, chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, died March 29, aged 51. A native of Colorado he took his B. S. at Colorado Agricultural College, where he specialized in entomology, his M. S. in entomology, and his Ph. D. in zoology and botany at Leland-Stanford. He was first in private employment on sugar beets, then from 1922 until 1929, a member of the staff of San Mateo Junior College. He entered USDA in 1929 and conducted further research on the sugar beet leafhopper in California and Idaho until called to administrative work in Washington in 1932.

He was a career employee who rose rapidly to become head of the Division of Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations in 1934 and assistant chief of the Bureau in 1939. He was promoted to be chief of EPQ in 1941, on the death of his predecessor, Dr. Lee A. Strong. Under his capable direction many recent accomplishments of importance, such as the development of DDT as an insecticide, of aerosols, and of methods for dispersing liquid insecticides via aircraft, took place. Dr. Annand was an outstanding entomologist known nationally and internationally. Mr. Avery S. Hoyt was appointed acting chief of EPQ, having served as such during Dr. Annand's illness. He was named chief of the Bureau April 26.

## Our food-quality sleuths

Would you like to read about the tests for food quality our employees, often girls in white smocks, perform on tomato catsup and other such products to be sure that they make the grade and are what they claim to be—fancy, standard, off-grade, or what not. We have an account of this sort of work that is too long even to summarize adequately in our limited space, but if you'd like a copy, write the editor of USDA (see address in back-page masthead) and ask for "Tests for Food Quality." It is useful for you to know about this important work carried on by the Production and Marketing Administration.

## In our periodicals

"Who Benefits from Improved Farm Technology?" by Sherman E. Johnson of BAE in April Agricultural Situation issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. \* \* \* "Erosion on Mountain Pastures in Italy," by W. T. White in May Soil Conservation, issued by the Soil Conservation Service. \* \* \* "Let's Plan Our Office Space" by Karl Knaus, another in that series about creating the better office, in April Extension Service Review, available from Ext. \* \* \* "1950 World Food Situation" in Foreign Agriculture for April, available from Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.



# Sievers retires

THE MAN WHO KNOWS as much or more about the production of drug, medicinal, and related crops as anyone in the country, Arthur F. Sievers, has retired from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering after 43 years of Government service devoted to the culture and analysis of plants producing drugs, poisons, insecticides, essential and fixed oils, perfumes, and related products. For the past 25 years his has been the principal responsibility for these investigations, with headquarters at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., for the past decade. Recently it has been demonstrated under his direction that two native crops, sumac and canaigre, hold promise as sources of tannin for use in tanning leather and for other purposes.

A native of Wisconsin and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Mr. Sievers entered USDA as a specialist on medicinal plants in 1907. From his researches on a wide variety of economic plants has come a tremendous fund of knowledge about the growth, cultivation, harvesting, processing, and marketing of each. This information is embodied in scores of bulletins, circulars, and articles, his recent *Farmers' Bulletin* having presented a comprehensive discussion of such plants as can be grown in the United States. Under his direction agricultural scientists and engineers have developed improved methods for harvesting these special crops and his technical bulletin on methods of extracting volatile oils from plant materials and on the properties of these oils has been a classic in its field for 20 years. He will continue to live in Washington, D. C.

## Pioneer statistician

FRANK ANDREWS, 77, a pioneer agricultural statistician died March 2 in a Salt Lake City hospital after a short illness. He had retired in 1942 after 40 years of Government service, nearly 20 as the Department's agricultural statistician for Utah and Nevada, with headquarters in Salt Lake City. Mr. Andrews' early work was the forerunner of much that is being done in the Department today. He entered the old Bureau of Statistics in 1903 and in the years that followed was one of the first to do research in the marketing and transportation of farm products. Pursuing investigations almost single-handedly that are now conducted by divisions, he published many articles on methods and costs of

marketing in the years from 1906 to 1920. He collected most of his information by correspondence, as there were no field offices in those days.

Foreign statistics also claimed Andrews' interest; at one time he was in charge of the Research and Foreign Statistics Section, which might be considered an early-day predecessor of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. In this pioneer work he obtained his information by corresponding with officials in foreign countries and the Institute of Agriculture in Rome. His summation and analyses of these data provided the most complete information on worldwide production that was available at that time.

In 1922, during a period of ill health, Andrews was transferred to Denver, Colo., where he was livestock statistician for 2 years. He then went to Salt Lake City in 1924 as agricultural statistician for Utah and Nevada. Andrews was born in Indiana and graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1893. Prior to his Government service, he was a school principal in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Old associates of Andrews, queried about his early days in the Department, recalled that he was industrious and thorough in his work, modest and retiring, and always considerate in his relations with his fellow workers.

## Nose print, please

SINCE CALVES are not equipped with what it takes to make fingerprints they are often identified by their nose prints. Identical twins, which are rare in the bovine family, usually have very similar nose prints, just as identical human twins usually have similar fingerprints. Records indicate that there will be an average of but about 1 pair of identical twins in more than 2,000 births, for beef cattle, though several times as many twins will occur among dairy cattle. Identical twins are always of the same sex, otherwise, if male and female, they are fraternal twins. Careful scientific studies are required to determine that the twins have resulted from the division of a single fertilized egg and not from two eggs which developed together.

Other tests of twin identity aside from nose prints include general conformation and color patterns which may be the same or may mirror one another—one twin having a distinctive white spot on the right side and the other one of similar shape on the left, for instance. Livestock scientists expect fruitful results from feeding studies with identical twin calves. Reliable information as to

the effects of limited food intake should be derived from feeding one calf ad lib and limiting the feed of its identical twin. This knowledge should be of considerable value to beef producers during seasons of feed shortage. The scientists estimate that one pair of identical twins should supply information as reliable as a test on 40 animals of merely the same breed and general type.

## Brief but important

### Progress in FHA housing

If interested in a report by the Assistant Secretary on the Farm Housing Program handled by Farmers Home Administration write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 800. (Use address in back-page masthead.)

### Write intelligibly

The late Neil E. Stevens, well known in USDA where he spent so many years before going to the University of Illinois in 1936, is represented posthumously in the *Scientific Monthly* for February by an article entitled "The Moral Obligation To Be Intelligible." Herein he finds gobbledygook unnecessary, unwise, and dishonest. With apt quotation he argues vehemently for complete intelligibility even in professional and scientific writing. If you want a copy of this article write the editor of *USDA* and ask for it by title.

### REA is 15

On May 11 the Rural Electrification Administration will be 15 years old—its pop, the USDA, is 88 on May 15. Had the REA boys told us about this matter forehandedly we might have hired a band, or at least baked a cake. Anyhow, we can say thus belatedly that, in its short life, REA has approved more than 2 billion dollars in loans, and has, directly and indirectly, helped raise the percentage of United States farms electrified to 80. If you want to know more get in touch with REA's Information Services Division.

### Oleomargarine Act

The new Oleomargarine Act signed by the President March 16 gives our former colleagues in Food and Drug Administration plenty to think about. For the surveillance of 525,000 public eating places to prevent violations in the serving of unidentified colored and perhaps nontriangular dabs of oleomargarine devolves upon it. The act does not restrict control to interstate supplies, but defines the public serving of all colored oleomargarine as within the jurisdiction of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. How much personnel and equipment these new duties will require F&D cannot now estimate but it hopes to escape becoming the "Poor F'Oleo and B'Drugged Administration."

### Pultz succeeds Sievers

Dr. L. M. Pultz has entered the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering to succeed A. F. Sievers, who recently retired, and lead research on the culture, analysis, and improvement of medicinal and special crops. He will work under supervision of Dr. D. M. Crooks who heads the Division of Tobacco, Medicinal, and Special Crops. Dr. Pultz is a native of South Dakota who did his undergraduate work at South Dakota State College and took his doctorate at University of Chicago. He has been with the University of Arizona for the past decade, heading first the botany then the horticultural department, before which he was in USDA 10 years. He is well known for his research in plant physiology.



## Flaxseed support price

If you want details on the support prices for 1950-crop flaxseed *write* the editor of *USDA* (address in back-page masthead) and ask for No. 878.

## The Boll Weevil Year

That's what 1950 looks like to our entomologists with record numbers of boll weevils having survived the winter and coming out of hibernation in the deep South.

## A. S. Deming

Andrew S. Deming, administrative assistant to the chief of the Tuberculosis Eradication Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, died of heart disease April 9, aged 50. A native of Washington, D. C., who was educated in local schools he spent 23 years in USDA.

## Science and freedom

We have copies of a thoughtful address entitled "The Place of Science in a Free Society," delivered by Atomic Energy Commissioner Henry D. Smyth at Amherst College, March 23. If you would like a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for it by title; use his address as in back-page masthead.

## Reinking to FAR

Prof. Otto A. Reinking has retired as professor of plant pathology and head of the division at New York (Cornell) Agricultural Experiment Station to become associated with our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations which has assigned him as counselor in plant industry and plant pathology to the Philippine Government in Manila.

## As ye sew

Yes, "sew" and not "sow." It's a new loose-leaf heavy-paper-covered booklet from the Iowa State College Press, Ames, Iowa, priced at \$1.75, by the Iowa Home Economics Association, and entitled "Unit Method of Sewing." Is it good? Don't ask a fellow who doesn't know an interfacing from a waffle iron and imagines a gore is what a bull does.

## Greenbug rampage

Our entomologists announce one of the greatest greenbug outbreaks in modern agricultural history in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Kansas. It may spread. In Oklahoma 100 airplanes have sprayed parathion on about 200,000 acres for greenbug control and 100,000 pounds of the chemical have so far been used there. Sprays of tetraethyl pyrophosphate are also being used widely. Both insecticides are highly poisonous and must be handled with extreme care.

## The plant explorers

"America's Crop Heritage" is a new book by Nelson Klose, who is associate professor of the social sciences at Central State College, Okla. Published by Iowa State College Press, Ames, Iowa, it is \$3.50 a copy. This is probably the very first attempt to draw together within one volume the records of American work in the field of plant exploration and introduction. It covers more than four centuries of plant exploration and the search for and introduction of more than 300 varieties of present-day crops. The role of the Federal Government, particularly the USDA, in this field is especially emphasized because many of the 190,000 plant varieties introduced into this country came via Government channels. There is a foreword by David Fairchild.

## New facts on photoperiodism

W. W. Garner and H. A. Allard, retired USDA plant scientists, discovered the fundamental law of photoperiodism 30 years ago. Now Drs. H. A. Borthwick, M. W. Parker, and S. B. Hendricks have found that a sensitive blue pigment related to the pigments of bile holds the key to the mechanism controlling flowering and other phases of plant development. We have a two-page mimeographed account of their work giving new facts about plant response to day length; if interested *write* the editor of *USDA* and request No. 767. (Use address in back-page masthead.)

## Plant growth regulators

Drs. Paul C. Marth and John W. Mitchell, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering, recently cited the following new uses indicated for plant growth regulators by recent research findings: Increasing yields of field-grown tomatoes and snap beans by sprays to reduce blossom shedding; prolonging the storage quality of snap beans by preharvest sprays; prolonging the storage quality of cauliflower; speeding up ripening of certain apple and peach varieties; hastening the uniform ripening of harvested bananas, pears, peaches, apples, figs, and green-pack tomatoes; reducing premature drop of citrus fruit and improving the storage quality of lemons; reducing sprouting in piles of cull potatoes; prolonging the blossoming season of ornamental cherry trees; aiding the plant breeder to make crosses as in lily breeding.

## Fuel from cattle

Director of Information Keith Himebaugh when in Turkey not long since found that dried cow manure was the principal fuel in some rural areas, reminding him of his grandmother's stories of burning buffalo chips when she homesteaded in Nebraska. USDA plant explorer Jack R. Harlan also said recently he found this fuel used in the naked plains of Anatolia and the denuded mountain regions of the Near East, after kneading, puddling, and shaping into cakes by hand. The cakes were then dried and stacked in ricks for winter fuel, this all, naturally, being women's work. In many areas with severe winters manure-cake fuel spelled the difference between life and death. Said Harlan: "So close is this symbiotic relationship between man and beast that it provides one of the best arguments against mechanization of the farm communities. A tractor could not displace the village herd because it does not provide fuel to warm the houses and cook the food."

## In the Boston milkshed

Wide seasonal variation in milk production has been a serious problem in the Boston milkshed for many years. Spring excesses are difficult and expensive to handle; the return to producers is comparatively low. Low fall production, on the other hand, leaves much of the milk plant idle and makes it difficult to keep various market outlets supplied. In some recent years consumers in the Boston area have suffered because supplies of milk at the low point of production were less than requirements for fluid consumption. To determine the possibilities and costs of evening out the seasonal distribution of milk production in this area some 500 farms in 3 northern New England States were studied under the Research and Marketing Act. Methods for obtaining more even production include improved managerial practices, control of freshening dates, use of younger cows, proper feeding, good housing facilities, and other adjustments of farming practices. A report issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, with the experiment stations of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, and the Administrator of Federal Milk Marketing Order 4 cooperating, gives additional information.

## School lunches

Last year 522,000,000 meals were served in 52,800 schools to an average of 7,943,000 children under the National School Lunch Program and, for the 6 months ended December 31, 1949, a total of 70,525,000 pounds of food was provided under the Direct Distribution Program. In addition, the schools received during the same period 167,971,000 pounds of surplus commodities acquired by USDA, and a total of 99,112,000 pounds of surplus food were also provided to charitable institutions under the Direct Distribution Program.

## Harken, housewives!

You may soon have your washday work lightened by using a simple, inexpensive compound in your laundry rinse water that makes cotton materials of all kinds easier to clean and harder to soil. The compound, "CMC," resulted from research at the Institute of Textile Technology, Charlottesville, Va., on a project sponsored by USDA and supervised by our Southern Regional Research Laboratory. For more details about this *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 784. (Use address in back-page masthead.)

## Pasture research

The United States Regional Pasture Laboratory, State College, Pa., was established 13 years ago under the Bankhead-Jones Research Act with Dr. R. J. Garber, the incumbent, as director. It forms an administrative part of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and its activities extend into a dozen of the Northeastern States. Research there deals with all phases of forage-crop production and use. An 11-page mimeographed statement on the laboratory, its work and accomplishments is available if you *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 661. (Use address in back-page masthead.)

## Cotton-peanut-potato act

House Joint Resolution 398 was approved by the President March 31 to become Public Law 471, Eighty-first Congress. It makes provision for 1950 farm cotton allotments, authorizes the Secretary to pay transportation and handling charges on potatoes acquired under the 1949 price-support program for disposal under specified conditions, restores the authority for operating a two-price program for peanuts similar to that in effect during 1941-42, and prohibits price supports for potatoes in 1951 and thereafter unless marketing quotas are in effect. We have a three-paragraph processed abstract of the law's provisions. If you want a copy *write* the editor of *USDA* and ask for the abstract of Public Law 471 approved March 31. (Use address in back-page masthead.)

## Write as you talk?

Writes Vice Director R. A. McGinty of South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station: "I wish to comment briefly on an item which appeared on the last page of *USDA* for March 27. This item is entitled 'Write As You Talk.' Personally I feel that this is bad advice. In fact, one of the chief difficulties in editing manuscripts at this station is that many of them are unfortunately written much as the author would say them if he were talking to an audience. Writing in such a style might be satisfactory if the writer always spoke correctly and logically, but I have never (well, hardly ever) found that to be the case. I am wondering whether other editors have encountered similar situations. I am very much impressed with the new words coined by Dr. MacIntire at the University of Tennessee (mentioned also in the March 27 issue) although I think such an idea might easily be carried too far."



There is such a thing as excessive optimism. Remember the boy who wrote home from college: "I made the highest grade in our group. Twenty of us failed."

## Florida timber decline

A recently completed Forest Service survey indicates that the total volume of timber in Florida has declined 9 percent during the past 13 years. If interested in more details on this write Press Service, USDA, and request No. 847.

## DDT protects bamboo

Our Federal Experiment Station in Puerto Rico has found that infestation of harvested culms of some bamboo species by the powder-post beetle may be controlled by the use of DDT—the culms are dipped for 10 minutes in a 5-percent solution in fuel oil.

## Stuart K. Cassell

Mr. Cassell now tightly holds the purse strings of VPI and has blossomed into an excellent budgetarian and finance officer. You may remember an earlier phase of his career when he helped administer AAA funds in Virginia. Earlier still he had been a county agent. In 1939 he became State executive officer for AAA, a job he held until he became VPI's business manager March 1, 1945.

## New publications

Circular No. 831, "Vegetable Investigations Under Dry-Land Conditions at Mandan, N. Dak.," by W. P. Baird and M. E. Dahmus of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. \* Miscellaneous Publication No. 704, "Diets of Families in the Open Country . . . a Georgia and an Ohio County, Summer 1945," by Sadye F. Adelson and Ennis C. Blake, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Procure as you do other printed publications, as often explained in *USDA*, and not from the editor of *USDA*.

## Short sweetpotato talk

The first report given the first day of the recent 2-day meeting of the Potomac Division of the American Phytopathological Society was remarkable: Dr. J. S. Cooley of our Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., reported for himself and his coworker, Helen F. Smart, "We find a temperature of 50° F. is too low for storing sweetpotatoes. That's the extent of our contribution." Of course, there were a few pictures to show piles of sound sweetpotatoes in comparison with piles of others damaged by fungi, and, perhaps, a hundred words of comment. But in spite of this accessory spurt it probably is a record for the Plant Industry auditorium, the Potomac Division, and maybe the American Phytopathological Society.

## Efficiency Awards Committee

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1252, March 28, announces the appointment of a Department Efficiency Awards Committee in conformance with Public Law 429, Eighty-first Congress, to have general supervision over all incentive award functions of USDA, to stimulate wide employee participation, and to make awards or recommend delegations of authority to subordinate awards committees. Assistant Secretary Hutchinson is chairman, Director of Personnel T. Roy Reid vice chairman, and N. R. Bear of Pers. is secretary. The other members are Governor Ivy W. Dugan, of FCA; Director of Information Keith Himbaugh; Director of Finance Ralph S. Roberts; B. T. Shaw, ARA; Director Arthur B. Thatcher of Plant and Operations; Administrator Ralph S. Trigg of PMA; and Chief Lyle F. Watts, Forest Service.

## Bean forecast

We mean Louis H. Bean, on the staff of the Secretary, and we direct your attention to his thoughtful article, "Forecasting the 1950 Elections," in Harper's Magazine for April.

## RMA facts

"Accomplishments Under the Research and Marketing Act" is an 11-page talk delivered March 31 by Assistant Administrator Omer W. Herrmann, Agricultural Research Administration, at Beltsville, Md. If you want a copy write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 793. (Use address in back-page masthead.)

## World food

Arthur P. Chew, Office of Information, USDA, is the author of a new and highly informative bulletin from the UNESCO Relations Staff, Department of State, entitled "U. S. Agriculture in the World Food Situation." You will find it urbanely written and highly informative. It is Department of State publication 3788.

## Introducing a speaker

We have a one-page mimeographed item by Royden C. Braithwaite, a 4-H Club Specialist in New York State, entitled "When You Introduce a Speaker." This is important. The way in which you introduce a speaker has a very great deal to do with his success or failure. If you want a copy write the editor of *USDA* and request it by title; use his address as in the back-page masthead.

## White house—red barn

According to Frederick Browne, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., a house properly painted white should be recoated every 4 or 5 years but a barn well painted red should last for 8 to 10 years, as dark-red barn paint is very durable. Painting barns and outbuildings white may tend to keep them cooler in summer, but a white building badly in need of repainting is a conspicuous as a sour note on a cornet—and much more so than a dark-red building in similar condition.

## Persistence of herbicide in soil

Our Federal Experiment Station in Puerto Rico has measured the persistence of sodium pentachlorophenate in the soil by the relative growth of corn and cucumber harvested 3 weeks after planting. Toxicity of the herbicide in general decreased as time passed, the rate of inactivation being greater when it was warmer, though inactivation did not occur after 2 months in dry soil. The material persisted longer in soil of medium moisture content than in saturated soil and when applied to a heavy clay rather than to a sandy or sandy-clay mixture.

## "Plant Disease Handbook"

"The chief hazard any garden plant has to endure is its owner, or gardener." Thus Cynthia Westcott opens her "Plant Disease Handbook," published recently by D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., at \$7.50 per copy. The author is a plant doctor extraordinary who was educated at Wellesley and Cornell; who served at Cornell, the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, and in the USDA; but who has long been in private practice. Her latest is a handbook for gardeners and those who advise them, professionals as well as amateurs, and deals comprehensively with plant diseases, their identification and control. (Profusely illustrated.)

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## Birthdays

The birthday of the Department of Agriculture will be May 15 this year as usual; it will be 88—venerable but vigorous. I Am An American Day, which might be regarded as the birthday of Americanism, comes on May 21.

## RMA advisory committee reports

You can procure copies of the reports and recommendations of the various advisory committees for work under the Research and Marketing Act from the Agricultural Research Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Ag research and point 4

If you are interested in "Agricultural Research and Point Four" you should read the speech of that title delivered by the Secretary before the National Farm Chemurgic Council Conference March 31; to get a copy write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 804; see address in back-page masthead.

## Copper helps tobacco

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station finds that copper added to the usual fertilizer applications for tobacco increases both yield and quality of the crop—36 pounds of copper sulfate per acre giving as much as a 30-percent increase in crop value. The copper seems not to act as a nutrient but to alter soil conditions favorably in some way.

## Kudzu mutant

A mutant of tropical kudzu called "Mayaguez hairless" because hairs were absent from stems, petioles, and flower stalks has been discovered in a field planting by our Federal Experiment Station in Puerto Rico. It breeds true for hairlessness when self-pollinated. Tests are under way now to determine the exact genetic basis of the character and to make comparisons of palatability, productivity, and insect and disease susceptibility.

## Tractors versus work stock

The Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics have completed and will soon publish a study that should help southern farmers determine whether tractor power will pay better than animal power on farms of various sizes. The project was partly financed by Research and Marketing Act funds. It will be reported in a bulletin from the Mississippi Station. You can get an advance digest of some of the facts by writing Press Service, USDA, and asking for No. 837.

## DOCUMENT 1 REVISED

*USDA* Document 1, Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has been revised and made current to May 1, 1950. If you want a copy write the editor of *USDA* and ask for Document No. 1. (See address in back-page masthead.)

May 8, 1950

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Emm'ore News Bulletin

FOR MAY 22, 1950

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## Second-hand water

ALL WATER is second-hand in a manner of speaking, for time and again its molecules have gone through the water cycle of rain which leaves it upon the ground or on the surface of bodies of water to evaporate, become clouds, and fall once more as rain. The phrase, consumptive use of water, applies in irrigated regions mainly to its use by crops and vegetation, but in recent years there has been much enhanced consumptive use of water by urban human beings. Notable water shortages have occurred. Much more water is used than ever before for air conditioning, industrially, and in such modern devices as automatic dishwashers, washing machines, electronic filtering equipment, and so on in homes and offices.

Much of the water so used by industry is essentially uncontaminated after use. The urban use of water has attained a height of approximately 200 gallons per day per person and is still increasing. Some areas where such increases have gone primarily for cooling already require that the water be returned to the ground-water supply thereafter for re-use. Possibly this manner of extending the use of second-hand water could be spread much more widely, thus helping to relieve some alarming urban water shortages. Wayne D. Criddle of Soil Conservation Service thinks so and he adds that "the use of wells for the return of uncontaminated water previously used by industry is expensive but often necessary, particularly where the draft by uncontrolled pumping otherwise would soon deplete the underground supply."

## Unsupported poultry

There will be no price support program on the 1950 production of chickens, commercial broilers included, and turkeys. For more details write the editor of *USDA*, using address in back-page masthead, and ask for No. 914.

## Great Plains soils

B. T. SHAW, deputy administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration, said recently, while discussing soil fertility in the Great Plains and future "Dust Bowl" possibilities at a Secretary's staff conference, that no system of farming there in use would maintain soil fertility and there was none on the drawing boards. Soils cropped continuously to wheat have lost a quarter of their organic matter, to small grains and fallow 35 percent, and to row crops or row crops and fallow one-half. The soil holds its own while in grass but goes downhill each time it is plowed for a crop. The stubble-mulch system halts wind and water erosion losses but not the decline in organic matter—nor does plowing under green manure crops.

Until about a decade ago this loss in organic matter had little influence on yields for there was still sufficient soil fertility to balance the available moisture supply. Moisture supply is still the main factor, but soil fertility is now limiting yields of most crops in years of above-average rainfall and of some crops, like grass seed, in all years. What we have learned about the use of fertilizers in humid regions and under irrigation is not applicable in the Great Plains. We have hopes of working our way out of this dilemma but the road is long and the research budget is limited.

## New high-flavor maple sirup

Scientists at our Eastern Regional Research Laboratory have hit upon a method of concentrating the maple flavor of maple sirup by heating it for 2 hours at 250° F. The resulting dark sirup has a maple flavor four to six times as strong as the original, and the process is economical. If this sirup is diluted with cane sugar sirup at 60 cents a gallon a full-flavored maple-sirup blend results that is practically indistinguishable from the best grades of maple sirup though costing much less. If interested, get from the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Philadelphia 18, Pa., publications AIC-269 and AIC-268.

## Magazine fare

RESEARCH ON A new method of food preservation using antibiotics, announced recently by the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, is featured in *McCall's* for May. "We've Got Weeds on the Run" proclaims a cartoon crew of weed-killing chemicals pictured on Country Gentleman's *USDA* page for May. Research men see a bright future for chemical weed killers. Over 100 are available—more to come.

Dr. Ross E. Moore, chief of the Technical Collaboration Branch, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, is the author of "La Agricultura de la America Latina y el Punto Cuarto," lead article in *La Hacienda* for March. The piece is illustrated with photographs of the co-operative agricultural experiment stations in Guatemala and Peru. "U. S. Science Aids Coffee Production" is the title of an article in *Coffee and Tea Industries* for April, describing the coffee improvement work carried on in Central American countries with the cooperation of *USDA*.

Family Fare (the new *USDA* cookbook) continues to receive bouquets from the press. Says the *Christian Science Monitor*: "We've never before devoted this column to a review of a cookbook. But 'Family Fare,' a new publication for the modern homemaker . . . is worth the attention of all our 'good cooks.'" *Time* magazine for April 3 included a picture of Helen Gahagan Douglas, in chef's cap, reading the cookbook. *Pathfinder* Magazine, after telling its readers about Family Fare, pointed out that today's bride buys more cookbooks than her mother did, and there are more to buy. Sixty were published in 1949. Family Fare was even mentioned in the august *Saturday Review of Literature*!

## USDA DOCUMENTS

All *USDA* documents are in stock as follows: No. 1, Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, May 1, 1950; No. 2, Abridged List of Federal Laws Applicable to Agriculture, November 1, 1949; No. 3, Biographies of Persons in Charge of Federal Agricultural Work, 1836 to Date, June 2, 1948; No. 4, Condensed History of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, May 15, 1950; No. 5, Our Department Scientists—outstanding achievements of some of our earlier famous workers in natural science; No. 6, Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists, April 1, 1950. Order by number. Send written orders to the editor of *USDA*. Please do not phone or come in person. A convenient List of Documents which acts as an order blank is sent out in each letter from the *USDA* office.



## The housewife

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH never forgets the housewife. Come spring again and it reminds her of information on the mending of rugs and carpets, telling her the tools and materials she needs to do a good job and also exactly how to do it. One of the few valuable things 5 cents will buy today is Farmers Bulletin 1960, Carpet and Rug Repair; send it in cash to Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Meanwhile our household specialists aver that the traditional flaring sides of the housewife's pots and pans is an outmoded style, especially on small kitchen ranges. This is dubbed a "futile flare," and housewives are advised to get pans and kettles with straight up-and-down sides as more convenient and less space-wasting. The flare-top style is an anachronism hanging on from the days of huge kitchen ranges when the saving of space and the exact placement of the pot were not prime considerations.

The housewife of today also has less use for her garbage can but more for her trash basket than in the past. The increasing use of packaged and ready-prepared foods means less kitchen waste—trimmings, peelings, outer leaves, stalks, and so on—and more trash—bottles, cans, wrappers, and packages. The garbage pail of other days may be too large now, the trash basket too small. A metal-lined trash bin with an opening on the outside of the house as well as in the kitchen is one suggestion.

Which brings to mind that frozen orange juice, first manufactured in the 1945-46 season to the tune of 266,000 gallons and using but one five-hundredth of our orange crop, rose to a golden frozen flood of 12 million gallons in 1948-49, taking a tenth of our total orange crop. This would make a glacier 60 feet wide, 5 feet deep, and a mile long, and the industry is still growing. It equals about 48 million gallons of ordinary single-strength juice or 14 million cases of 24 No. 2 cans of ordinary juice!

### Don't drag your feet

Our principal adviser among the elevator operators, Mrs. Gorham, has observed as we have that older people move faster than the young these days. Her theory is that 90 percent of the foot dragging and slow movement by the young is attributable to plain laziness. She says they just never did know what work was as we knew it when we were young. All of us older people feel that way, but there may actually be something to it.

## Hoyt heads EPQ

AVERY S. HOYT, who has been acting as head of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine since the death of Dr. P. N. Annand on March 29, was appointed chief of that Bureau effective April 26. A native of San Diego, Calif., he took his B. S. from Pomona College in 1910 and was engaged in State horticultural quarantine work until 1921 when he resigned to go into business for himself. In 1928 he became head of the California State Department of Agriculture.

From 1931 to 1934 Mr. Hoyt was assistant chief of the old Plant Quarantine and Control Administration, USDA, becoming assistant chief of EPQ when it was established in 1934 and his agency merged into it. He has been associate chief since 1941 and, because of his outstanding work in that position, was granted a meritorious promotion in 1942.

## New kick for chicks

AUREOMYCIN, one of the newer antibiotics, seems to team up with vitamin B<sub>12</sub> to make pigs and chicks grow faster. So say our scientists. Very recently a derivative of arsonic acid has been brought into the picture by Drs. H. R. Bird and R. J. Lillie of the Bureau of Animal Industry as giving an additional kick to chick growth when fed along with B<sub>12</sub> and aureomycin. Chicks so fed attained a weight of 1.26 pounds at 6 weeks of age, gaining 0.36 pound for each pound of feed consumed. They gained faster than chicks on B<sub>12</sub> alone or on high-efficiency diets fortified with animal byproducts. It will take about 6 weeks to complete tests and see whether aureomycin is itself a growth stimulant like B<sub>12</sub> or merely boosts the effect of the vitamin. For more details on this write the editor of *USDA* (see address in back-page masthead) and ask for No. 986.

Meanwhile Dr. Jakob Stekol and associated Philadelphia research workers report that rats can produce their own supply of the important amino acid methionine if they are fed the necessary chemical constituents to fashion it, plus vitamin B<sub>12</sub>. Methionine is one of the twenty-odd simpler substances from which animals make protein. It is used by the liver to make a compound necessary for the transportation of fat from this organ to the rest of the body. Here it seems that an animal can produce in its own body certain nonsynthesizable amino acids if given the materials to make them!

## Brief but important

### Citrus research

If you want to know more about the recommendations of the Citrus Advisory Committee for research under the Research and Marketing Act write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 911.

### Graduate School special

The USDA Graduate School has announced registration dates for its summer session as May 31 through June 3. Classes begin June 5. Two courses only are offered during the summer: Identification of Local Plants and of Local Birds in the Washington Area. And if you want to—or must—know what a "demographer" is, the Graduate School knows that too.

### Employees

Civil Service Commission reports that paid Federal employment in all areas totaled 1,950,056 at the end of February, a decrease of 434 during the month. Of these, 1,801,035 were employed within continental United States and only 213,153 in the Washington area. The Post Office Department then reported the largest increase and the Federal Security Agency the largest decrease in numbers.

### Hog-cholera immunization

Last year a slight change in form of the hog-cholera virus caused some trouble, but the variant appears to be unstable and has a marked tendency to revert to the regular form. The use of anti-hog-cholera serum is still by far the surest means of protecting against widespread appearance of the disease. For more details write the editor of *USDA* (see back-page masthead for address) and ask for No. 923.

### Soil fertility resources

Dr. B. T. Shaw, deputy administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration, had some significant and very interesting things to say on the soils of New England, as well as soils in general, when he spoke at University of Maine on April 5. If you would like a copy of his address, Soil Resources of New England, write the editor of *USDA* (see back-page masthead for address) and ask for No. 908.

### The Manhattan Hayshaker

We simply must recommend this highly unofficial publication of the Agriculture Employees Association in New York City as it is such an authentic echo of bucolic Manhattan. Information Branch of Production and Marketing Administration in New York City can enlighten you further about this quaint and lively processed out-of-hours periodical. It insists it does not purport to be an official publication of USDA in any way—but it has its moments!

### USDA in New York City

The Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, 641 Washington Street, New York City 14, has prepared a directory to our offices in New York City telling where they are, what they do, and giving the names of the top brass with phone numbers and addresses. This processed booklet should be extremely useful especially to stupid people like the editor of *USDA* who has tried for years to find 641 Washington Street, without any notable success. However, he can report that persons in the vicinity agree that the PMA office exists, though their directions on how to get there are too diverse and confusing to be followed. We suggest that instead you get and follow the directory mentioned herein.



## Housefly control in barns

Appropriately enough our entomologists have just issued an 11-page processed pamphlet on Control of House Flies in Barns with Different Insecticides. Written by I. H. Gilbert, H. G. Wilson, and J. M. Coarsey, it is available from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; ask for E-795.

## More duties to FHA

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1171, Supplement 5, April 10, delegates authority to Farmers Home Administration with respect to homestead entrymen and reclamation contract purchasers. For more details procure the memorandum from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA, Room 134W; Ext. 3337.

## Centipede grass seed

Centipede grass, introduced from China more than 30 years ago, is about the best lawn grass for the deep South. It was long considered to be practically without seed and was increased by planting sprigs. Now USDA scientists, working with those of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, have found how to produce 150 pounds or more of seed to the acre. Considerable quantities will probably be ready for sale in 1951. If interested in more details write the editor of *USDA* (see address in back-page masthead) and ask for No. 994.

## Top management problems

A while ago there was a panel discussion here on what are the important administrative problems of the USDA and its agencies. Mr. Thomas McKillop of the Rural Electrification Administration was chairman and Under Secretary Loveland, Administrator Wickard of REA, Chief Watts of Forest Service, and Administrator Cardon of Agricultural Research Administration participated. If you want a copy of this extremely interesting and helpful discussion write the editor of *USDA* (see back-page masthead for address) and ask for the panel discussion on management.

## European co-op needs

Glen E. Riddell, Farm Credit Administration marketing specialist, has completed the first-hand study of European cooperatives under the Research and Marketing Act which John H. Heckman of FCA began for FCA and the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. They will work jointly now in preparing a report on their observations. European co-ops are very much interested in doing business with United States agricultural producers, particularly for protein feeds, edible and inedible fats, oilseeds, grains, and dried fruits, but many restrictions still confront them. This RMA project was aimed at expansion and maintenance of foreign markets for United States farm products.

## The pig

The pig is by nature a cleanly, intelligent animal, fastidious about his food and non-belligerent insofar as circumstances permit, who stores in his body 35 percent of the energy contained in all he consumes, as compared with a mere 11 percent for sheep and cattle. His carcass is far higher in yield of dressed meat than those of cattle or sheep; he gains weight rapidly and economically, and a 4-ounce serving of pork furnishes 402 calories, as compared with 369 for beef, 367 for lamb, 269 for fowl, 186 for veal, and 177 for fish. Easily house broken, the pig has also been trained to hunt and to be an entertainer. He is a natural weather prophet and his race is 40,000,000 years old. These and other fascinating facts and stories will be found in "Pigs From Cave to Corn Belt," by Charles Wayland Towne and Edward Norris Wentworth, a book from University of Oklahoma Press which our Library has.

## Rural Electrification News

The April-May 1950 number of this lively and readable illustrated publication put out by REA is the fifteenth anniversary issue. It contains much of general interest. To get a copy, write the Rural Electrification Administration.

## How long is a root pest?

One of the worst root pests is the nematode. And Wilbur D. Courtney, nematologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, says: "If we had a 4-inch fishworm and a bulb nematode side by side and enlarged them both so that the nematode would be 1 inch long, the fishworm would then be 8 feet 4 inches long."

## Frozen apple pollen

What won't they think of to put in the deep-freeze next? This season some American apple blossoms were treated with pollen collected a year ago and stored at low temperature after quick freezing. In time this sort of thing might supplant the bee as a pollinizer. When dried or kept in ordinary cold storage, apple pollen quickly loses its life-giving power, but if it can be stored safely in the deep freeze for commercial use in following seasons—well, just wait and see.

## New cotton fertilizer

Cotton farmers in the Mississippi Delta can reduce production costs by using compressed synthetic ammonia gas as a nitrogen fertilizer for cotton and corn. For more information get the report "An Economic Appraisal of Anhydrous Ammonia as a Nitrogenous Fertilizer," issued by the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station and based on a study made jointly by the Station and Bureau of Agricultural Economics on Research and Marketing Act funds.

## How to make a speech

A while back we offered a mimeographed address on public speaking. You all spoke at once and we still have a thousand unfilled requests we hope sometime to fill. Meanwhile let us refer you to a Macmillan book by Mark Hanna entitled "Public Speaking Without Fear and Trembling" and costing \$2.75—or the USDA Library has a copy. Or "Creative Power Through Discussion", a Harper book by Thomas Fansler and costing \$3, might be your prescription. Take your choice; Library has it too. P. S. Mark Hanna has lectured for Forest Service.

## Rural USA

Two books that might be of interest to many of you (the Library has both) are "Rebuilding Rural America, New Designs for Community Life," by Earle Hitch (\$3.50 from Harpers) and "Small Town Renaissance, A Story of the Montana Study," by Richard Waverly Poston (\$3 from Harpers). The former is the most extensive report to date on modern projects in rural betterment. The latter addresses itself to the question: How can the cultural, economic, and spiritual vitality of the small community be recovered?

## New corn earworm control

Our entomologists have found that spray applications of an emulsion containing DDT, mineral oil, and water to silks and husks of developing ears will kill the worms before they attack and ruin the corn, if the spray is applied at the right time. For power sprayers use 3 quarts of 25-percent DDT emulsifiable concentrate and 2½ gallons of white mineral oil; dilute with water to make 25 gallons of emulsion, enough for 1 acre. R. A. Blanchard of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine developed the method and cooperative field tests were made in Texas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois.

## Said Edmund Burke—

When defending the American Colonies in Revolutionary days: "I do not know the method of drawing up an indictment against a whole people."

## Program

A while back abuse of the word "program" was under discussion in *USDA*. Very recently we have found a program defined finally as any assignment that cannot be completed by one phone call. A program is normally implemented through channels which are the trail left by interoffice memoranda.

## Dr. Hutcheson dead

Dr. T. B. Hutcheson, for years prominent in soils and crop research at the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, died recently and suddenly at 68. He was dean of the College of Agriculture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and a brother of VPI's chancellor, Dr. J. R. Hutcheson.

## H. J. Demaree

Harry J. Demaree, former USDA employee in the old Bureau of Chemistry going back to Dr. Harvey W. Wiley's day, and later in the Office of Information, died recently, aged 63. He served in Government 29 years, first entering in 1909, resigning in 1939. A native of Pennsylvania he was a law graduate of Georgetown University.

## "New" sugar

When the newspapers reported that more rapid intravenous feeding of carbohydrates to patients unable to eat was achieved by using invert sugar, this was described as a "new" sugar. While the bee has been putting it into honey for ages, along with a bit of flavor and a few spices, the editor of *USDA* remembers doing research on new and better methods of making invert sugar from cane sugar way back in Dr. Wiley's day in the Bureau of Chemistry.

## Spinning spinach

The short shelf life of washed and trimmed spinach in transparent containers has been the subject of a study under the Research and Marketing Act. It results largely from bacterial soft rot and can be controlled pretty well by spinning the washed leaves dryer in the centrifuge and using more refrigeration. The longer spinning, which reduces the weight of the product as much again as does the customary ½-minute spin now used commercially, cuts decay and lengthens shelf life. Refrigeration in the store is still the best means, however, of controlling decay and increasing shelf life.

## Ergot invades Puerto Rico

Ergot, for generations recognized as an abortive cattle poison in the United States, has been identified on guinea grass in Puerto Rico. Ergot appears in two stages. The first is known as the sphacelial state, originally regarded as a distinct genus of fungi, the second as the sclerotial stage, which incites severe reaction in cattle. The Federal Experiment Station at Mayaguez reports a heavy infestation there last September of the sphacelial stage. During November this stage was reported spreading on guinea grass over wide areas in the island's southwest dairy region. Nearly every plant in large fields had ergot. While the volume of the subsequent second stage was reduced by fungus parasites, enough second-stage ergot developed to be regarded as a potentially serious forage problem. Feeding habits of cows under Puerto Rican conditions are such that the toxic ergot is generally not eaten. However, any change in forage management which might include cutting and storage of hay might cause trouble and farmers are being alerted.



## Kadderly to Europe

Wallace Kadderly, who formerly headed USDA radio work and has been in Portland, Oreg., for some years, has left for a post in Paris on assignment to aid ECA's European information set-up.

## Thomas A. Norman

Mr. Norman, a graduate of Howard University in electrical engineering, has transferred from the Navy Department to the Rural Electrification Administration to become 1 of 16 young engineers now being oriented for positions in the construction and maintenance of rural electric power facilities.

## Weed killers

We have a factual background statement on weed killers from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. It is entitled "Chemicals Used in Weed Killing." If interested in it write the editor of *USDA* (see address in back-page masthead) and ask for a copy by title.

## Bolster dahlia

The 1950 dahlia catalog of J. G. Ballego & Sons, Bloemhove Nurseries, Leiden, Holland, lists "Attaché Bolster," an artistic deep-lilac hybrid-cactus dahlia, honoring Horace G. Bolster, our agricultural attaché at the Hague. He was earlier attaché at Teheran and before that was with the Montana Extension Service.

## Trichinosis

Do you think that Federal meat-inspection regulations enforced by our Bureau of Animal Industry fail to protect you from trichinosis? If you do, you better hasten to write the editor of *USDA* (see address in back-page masthead) and ask for No. 902 which tells the story of how our Federal regulations, based on research performed many years ago, safeguard you consumers of federally inspected meat against trichinosis. You can eat federally inspected meats without fear.

## Teuton the master

Frank Teuton, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry information head, has worked himself up quite a reputation as a fellow of indefatigable zeal and energy who can dramatize the research findings of his bureau and its four big Regional Research Laboratories in a way that the layman can understand and appreciate. He can put on a show that goes well with any group, as he gets crowd participation. He thinks nothing of being pressed into radio and television programs one on top the other, and is proving to be one of the most durable veterans in *USDA*'s information service, no agency barred.

## Forest council

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1254, April 13, 1950, announced the establishment of the National Forest Advisory Council, composed of not fewer than three consultants as designated by the Secretary to consider and advise him on matters relating to the public's use of the National Forests and of other lands administered or controlled by Forest Service. Members must have no financial interest in the use of such lands, will be appointed on a basis of their personal competency and not as representatives of groups or organizations interested in the use of the lands, and will receive such salary or per diem as the Secretary determines. Thus the National Forest Board of Review, established by former Secretary Anderson in 1948, is renamed, but Secretary Brannan has asked the members of the former Board to continue as members of the new council. For more detail, see the memorandum.

## Plant-material insecticides

EPQ has a new processed publication on "Preliminary Tests of Plant Materials as Insecticides," by G. T. Bottger and Martin Jacobson. If interested, get your copy directly from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Ask for E-796.

## Fur Farming Possibilities

This is the title of new Leaflet No. 267, by Charles E. Kellogg, who is in charge of fur-farming investigations for the Bureau of Animal Industry. It covers getting a start and carrying on with silver foxes, minks, chinchillas, martens, fishers, nutrias, beavers, and so on, with brief comment about muskrats, fitches, and raccoons.

## Reinking sent forth

Dr. Otto A. Reinking of Cornell, one of the Nation's outstanding tropical plant specialists, has left to represent the USDA as an adviser on plant disease problems for the Department of Agriculture and Commerce of the Philippines, his first problem being the control of mosaic disease of abaca or manila hemp. This is a Point 4 project. For more details on this write the editor of *USDA*, see back-page masthead for address, and ask for No. 964.

## "That old redwood tree"

With the valued assistance of "that old-timer," Joseph Haley of the Office of Plant and Operations, we have discovered that the old redwood tree trunk which so long adorned the Department grounds was moved first to the basement of a concrete building at Arlington Farm, there it remained until the War Department took over the farm and asked what should be done with it. Nothing in particular was. It still exists but after exposure to the weather for so many years is pretty well rotted out.

## Hambidge honored

Gove Hambidge, formerly editor of the *USDA* Yearbook and later co-ordinator of information for Agricultural Research Administration, has won the \$1,000 American Designs Award in recognition of his work in carrying out the objectives of the agency of which he is now a leading staff member, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He was executive secretary of the FAO Interim Commission which drafted the FAO constitution and arranged for the Quebec conference where FAO was established.

## Imported primula plants

The importation of primulas from Australia and the British Isles is now prohibited because the tobacco-necrosis virus is present in both countries. Primulas from other foreign countries, except Canada, are admitted if grown under supervision for a period of postentry quarantine. A new plant quarantine inspection technique is being introduced for imported primula plants and at the same time changes are being made in the import regulations relating to lantana and pelargonium plants. For more details write Press Service, *USDA*, and ask for No. 909.

## Reluctant Farmer

This is a book by Elswyth Thane, author of 14 novels (so far), 4 other nonfiction books, and 2 plays, who did not wish to write just another quaint book about the gay and jaunty couple who undertook to rehabilitate and tame an abandoned New England farm. She has written another quaint book about a couple who etc., etc., however, though she strains less for jocosity than some such authors. If you like maple sugar, birds, bees, and battles with obstinate machines, you might care to read it. The husband, in this case William Beebe, lends a little support to the enterprise. Published by Duell, Sloan, and Pearce, New York City, but our Library has it.

## Homesteader loans

If you want detailed information on the procedure for obtaining farm loans to homesteaders through Farmers Home Administration write Press Service, *USDA*, and ask for release No. 999.

## Milk Marketing Orders

If your understanding of this subject is not all it should be read Philip E. Nelson's article "The How's and Why's of Federal Milk Marketing Orders," in Marketing Activities for March; obtain from Production and Marketing Administration.

## Technical editing

The latest in style manuals—Author's Guide for Preparing Manuscript and Handling Proof—tells how to put the editorial finish on a manuscript. It is described by the publishers, John Wiley & Sons, New York City, as "A modern manual for the scientific and technical author. It gives correct, efficient, and economical methods of accomplishing those phases of editorial and production work for which the author is responsible." It is brief, concise, illustrated, runs 80 pages, includes do's and don'ts on the inside covers, and costs \$2 a copy. Our Library has it.

## Atoms and bugs

Superficially you would think there could be little connection between the work of Britain's Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell and the near-by Pest Information Laboratory at Slough. But the latter is using methyl bromide containing radioactive bromine in testing how fast the gas penetrates stored grain. Penetration of the fumes can be followed readily with instruments used to measure radioactivity. It was found that when methyl bromide was applied to the tops of deep grain silos, or to the holds of barges filled with corn, little of the fumigant wandered away from the points at which it was applied and the bulk of the grain went untouched. But a grain silo equipped with a system of pipes so arranged as to circulate the fumigant to all parts of the grain worked quickly.

## CALLING ALL SUPERVISORS!

If you are a supervisor, at whatever level, you are interested in better management. In April, Secretary Brannan addressed the Society for the Advancement of Management in Washington, D. C., on the subject: "Organizing a Department for Better Management." *This is your meat!*—and it is an address full of meat and seasoned with actual examples of tax-dollar-saving economies in the *USDA*. It also expresses the Secretary's philosophy on the management problem and outlines the Department's administrative and managerial organization, and the work and objectives of our Management Improvement and Manpower Utilization Program. To get a copy write the editor of *USDA* (see back-page masthead for address) and ask for No. 984.

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR June 5, 1950

## The Honor Awards

THIS IS the annual Honor Awards issue of *USDA*. The names and citations of those who received awards for distinguished and for superior service follow this article. The first woman to be honored with a Distinguished Service Award seems to merit special mention. She is Lucy Maclay Alexander of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, whose varied investigations on meat and poultry cookery have influenced many a cookbook writer and improved many a cook. Her work has already led to modern methods of cooking different meats at temperatures best suited to each; her conviction that housewives should use a thermometer when cooking meat led manufacturers to supply short, sturdy instruments that could be inserted into roasts.

Miss Alexander was born of Scottish-Irish ancestry on a farm in Pennsylvania but grew up on a farm in St. Clair County, Ill. She was educated at Vassar and at the University of Illinois, and studied advanced statistical methods in the USDA Graduate School. Entering the Department as a chemist in 1919, Miss Alexander transferred to the home economics research laboratories 7 years later, and launched her important studies which involved the application of the experimental methods of physics and biochemistry to the eminently practical business of cooking meats. The author of numerous bulletins she has during the past 2 years begun a new line of research on the cooked yields and palatability in relation to the composition of meats and poultry. It promises usefulness in the market grading of these foods.

Congratulations to Miss Alexander and to all the other awardees! Our best thanks also to the members of our award boards who have worked so conscientiously in selecting those honored.

## For Distinguished Service

LUCY M. ALEXANDER, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Beltsville, Md.: For outstanding achievement in applying fundamental scientific principles to meat and poultry cookery; for relating cooking shrinkage to chemical composition and to method of producing and processing for market; for formulating precise, practical directions for cooking meat and poultry; and for designing and sponsoring a practical meat thermometer.

DR. CHARLES E. KELLOGG, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Beltsville, Md.: For outstanding leadership in the field of soil science; for unique effectiveness in interpreting soil uses to better serve human welfare, and for outstanding contributions to public understanding of world food production potentials.

DR. MAX A. MCCALL, PISAE, Beltsville, Md.: For distinguished service to American agriculture through the planning and execution of outstanding research programs, establishing high standards of research, and inspiring a high degree of excellence among agricultural research scientists.

LYLE F. WATTS, Forest Service, Washington, D. C.: For distinguished and effective leadership in advancing the conservation of forest resources in the United States and internationally.

ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY AND GRAPHICS SECTION, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, Washington, D. C.: For bringing together and presenting in pictorial fashion three atlases on the geography of world agriculture.

VOLATILE FLAVOR CONCENTRATE GROUP, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Wyndmoor, Pa.: For originating, pilot-plant developing, and commercially advancing the first successful process for recovering, unaltered, the volatile flavor constituents of fruit juices, in highly concentrated form.

## For Superior Service

DAVID M. ADISON, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D. C.: For developing statistical records for REA, its borrowers, and the general public, and for exceptional skill in planning, organizing, and establishing simplified and improved methods of machine compilation of basic data.

LYLE T. ALEXANDER, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Beltsville, Md.: For achievements in soil science including integrating principles of soil chemistry and physics with those of soil genesis, classification, and management; for investigating and using radioactive materials; and for developing laboratory support in basic and applied research for the National Cooperative Soil Survey.

REED W. BAILEY, Forest Service, Ogden, Utah: For creative thinking and dynamic leadership in research in watershed management, especially in the fields of range-land rehabilitation and flood and erosion control.

WILLIAM E. BALDWIN, FS, Globe, Ariz.: For his extraordinary achievement in administering a ranger district, formerly administered as two districts; discharging complex grazing, lands, recreation, and other duties in a heavily populated mining area; and for winning an unusual degree of confidence among his associates, and support and respect from the public he serves.

PAUL B. BARGER, Extension Service, Waterloo, Iowa: For his contributions to local, State, and national 4-H Club programs; for establishing a pattern of community organization; and for organizing and carrying out an excellent program of agricultural development in his county.

ROBERT G. BENEDICT, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, Peoria, Ill.: For creative research resulting in a valuable contribution to science and to agriculture in discovering and exploring a new antibiotic, polymyxin.

LENOR M. BENIK, Production and Marketing Administration, Washington, D. C.: For exemplary competence and usually meritorious service in performing and organizing work, both within and outside the scope of her duties, in such a manner as to increase materially the effectiveness and economy with which the work of the division in which she is employed is performed.

ROBERT BIER, PMA, Washington, D. C.: For his exceptional administrative ability and unusually effective leadership in the handling of program operations;



superb management of employees under emergency conditions; and for his constructive contributions to the standardization and inspection service in the orderly marketing of peanuts which resulted in substantial benefits to the industry and to the Government.

JOSEPH W. BIGGS, AIC, Peoria, Ill.: For meritorious execution of duties and establishing an exemplary record through his numerous contributions of a creative nature, and demonstrations of leadership, initiative, industry, and devotion to duty.

LILLIAN B. BIRDWELL, REA, Washington, D. C.: For exceptional performance in the analysis of borrowers' operations and in the preparation of analytical reports.

FRED W. BLAISDELL, Soil Conservation Service, Minneapolis, Minn.: For especially meritorious service to agriculture in developing and perfecting the hydraulic design for structures used in soil conservation and water-control programs.

OLIVER R. BROWN, Farmers Home Administration, Decatur, Tex.: For leadership in working with production and subsistence loan borrowers, the results of which contributed in a major way in converting a worn-out, eroded agricultural county to one of the most progressive dairy counties in Texas.

WALTER H. CONWAY, Ext., Washington, D. C.: For his effectiveness in carrying out the fiscal aspects of the cooperative extension program through his ability to influence States to adjust their budget programs thus building a solid foundation for cooperative work.

MICHAEL T. COOGAN, PMA, Los Angeles, Calif.: For effective and efficient administration of marketing agreements, including surplus removal and export subsidy programs, in the face of overwhelming obstacles; and for his unusual analytical ability in appraising the economic and organizational problems involved in the handling of exceedingly complex and difficult marketing operations.

CORA COOKE, Ext., St. Paul, Minn.: For her contribution to the development of Minnesota's modern, scientifically managed poultry industry which was motivated by her educational program and carried on through organized groups of women and their leaders.

CLARENCE B. CULPEPPER, Ext., Tifton, Ga.: For improving methods of cultivation, fertilization, and seed selection in his county; rejuvenating the peach industry; assisting State and Federal governments in tick eradication; and

emphasizing the need for improved swine and dairy cows.

CECIL V. CUMMINS, FHA, Batesville, Miss.: For effective performance and achievement in assisting borrowers of the Farmers Home Administration to plan and carry out improved farming methods and business practices which have materially improved their standard of living.

THOMAS J. DEWEY, Jr., FHA, New Roads, La.: For exceptional ability and performance, and progressive leadership and guidance of the Farmers Home Administration program under his supervision.

HELENA DILGER, Ext., Davenport, Iowa: For exceptional enthusiasm and skill in developing county extension programs based on the needs of farm families, and for inspiring rural people to assume responsibility for working out their own problems.

WILLIAM L. EVANS, PMA, Washington, D. C.: For meritorious authorship in devising and compiling a digest of Department rulings in over 3,500 controversies under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, indispensable in insuring consistent interpretations of the Act and of the regulations.

ROSE J. FEDUCIA, FHA, Shreveport, La.: For demonstrating unusual efficiency in carrying on the business of the parish office during a succession of supervisors and in interim periods of supervisory vacancies; for unusual success in devising ways and means for obtaining payments in collection-only cases; and for helping gain favorable public acceptance of the program in Caddo Parish.

DOROTHY I. FENNELL, AIC, Peoria, Ill.: For exceptionally meritorious service in the preparation of scientifically accurate drawings and photomicrographs illustrating agriculturally and industrially important molds of the genus *Penicillium*.

HENRY H. FINNELL, SCS, Goodwell, Okla.: For his contribution to the agriculture of the Southern Great Plains, and more particularly for development of wind erosion control methods in semi-arid areas.

DUTHIEL W. FORTENBERRY, SCS, Columbia, Miss.: For his service to the Walthall County Soil Conservation District in Mississippi in helping to develop a permanent-type agriculture based on good land use.

DAVID H. FOSTER, SCS, San Antonio, Tex.: For meritorious service to agriculture and rural life in the development of new and improved plants for use in soil

and moisture conservation, and for effective educational and informational activities in creating public interest in grasses.

PAUL FROELICH, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.: For developing more efficient procedures with respect to the preparation and printing arrangements of the 1949 edition of Agricultural Statistics, which resulted in an unusually early date of publication, as well as appreciable savings of time and money.

GEORGE R. GREENBANK, Bureau of Dairy Industry, Washington, D. C.: For meritorious research on the chemistry of milk; and for his scientific contributions to the improvement of the manufacture of dairy products.

GEORGE J. HARRISON, PISAE, Shafter, Calif.: For research which resulted in producing a superior cotton; for devising means of making the results of his research widely available to farmers; and for organizing a seed-increase program which placed this cotton on 957,000 acres in California.

VAN B. HART, Ext., Ithaca, N. Y.: For exceptional ability and zeal in developing and maintaining a well-balanced farm-management program with special foresight in adjusting to changed conditions, and for his pioneering effort and accomplishment in the field of farm finance.

LAVERA A. HENSON, FHA, Beaver, Okla.: For exemplifying the highest tradition of a public servant through her unusual ability in dealing with others so as to gain their respect and confidence and through her assumption of responsibility and devotion to duty.

MARIAN V. HESTER, FHA, Topeka, Kans.: For exceptional leadership in improving living conditions and the health of Kansas farm families.

GENE L. HOFFMAN, FHA, Centerville, Iowa: For attaining far-reaching results in livestock and soil improvement; introducing new cropping practices; and for recognized agricultural leadership in his county.

ALFRED B. JOLLEY, Ext., Dallas, Tex.: For his contribution to the enrichment of rural life through his successful advocacy of scientific farming; his foresight in developing farm demonstrations and group activities to provide increased farm incomes; and for his ability to train young extension workers.

ARNE G. KETTUNEN, Ext., East Lansing, Mich.: For his vision, perseverance and leadership which have been instrumental in building one of the Nation's most effective 4-H Club programs.



ARNOLD W. KLEMM, Ext., Columbia, Mo.: For his work which has had a profound influence on the farm population in Missouri to practice soil management and conservation.

ALBERT A. KLINGEBIEL, SCS, Champaign, Ill.: For his leadership in developing techniques and procedures of presenting land-capability information to farmers, coordinating soil conservation survey activities and training Service personnel.

LOUISE M. KRUEGER, Office of Budget and Finance, Washington, D. C.: For planning, developing, and securing the adoption of improved fiscal methods and procedures, resulting in greater efficiency in the Department's fiscal operations and their more effective coordination with established standards of performance.

WOLF I. LADEJINSKY, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, Washington, D. C.: For analyzing and understanding the problems of the Far Eastern peasantry; for his assistance in working out solutions; and for his unwavering faith in the belief that improving the lot of the peasant is the real economic problem of the Far East, which has had an important bearing upon the United States governmental policy toward Far Eastern problems.

THERON R. LITTLEFIELD, FS, San Francisco, Calif.: For exceptional zeal and leadership in promoting the conservation and management of water resources of the National Forests in the public interest.

KLARE S. MARKLEY, AIC, New Orleans, La.: For significant contributions to the chemistry and technology of fats, oils, and oilseeds through research and outstanding authorship, leading to the more efficient utilization of these products.

VERA C. MARSHALL, FHA, Des Moines, Iowa: For service of an exceedingly high caliber both in quality and quantity of work performed and for devotion to duty which has continually inspired other employees to render a higher standard of service.

CARROLL K. MINGLE, Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington, D. C.: For the leading part played in developing the background and shaping policies for eradication of brucellosis of domestic animals in the United States and foreign countries.

MYRTLE MOHAGEN, AIC, Peoria, Ill.: For establishing an exemplary record of effective administration and leadership.

EDNA M. MONTGOMERY, AIC, Peoria, Ill.: For research on starch which resulted in the first isolation of the pure sugar isomaltose and the development of

methods for its practical preparation, thus improving and increasing industrial utilization of starch from cereal crops.

ANNA T. MOORE, AIC, New Orleans, La.: For initiative, ingenuity, and resourcefulness in developing an improved microscopical method for measuring cross sections of wet cotton fiber which has proved extremely valuable in research on improving the water resistance of cotton fabrics.

LANE A. MOORE, BDI, Beltsville, Md.: For developing techniques for determining vitamin A deficiency, the pathological effects, and the requirements of dairy cattle for this vitamin; for determining the effects of thyroprotein on the performance of dairy cattle; and for contributions to animal nutrition research through the evaluation of feeds.

WILLARD A. MUNSON, Ext., Amherst, Mass.: For cultivating a fine sense of common purpose and cooperation, a true perception of the real nature of marketing problems, and a wholesome respect for the highest technical and professional standards among the agricultural population of a highly industrialized area.

HERBERT K. PAYNE, FHA, Anniston, Ala.: For effecting the conversion of owner borrowers from row-crop cotton farming to dairy farming, thereby greatly increasing their gross income and net worth; for the establishment of better soil-building and conservation practices in Calhoun County and for influencing many nonborrower farmers in the county and the State to adopt new and improved agricultural practices.

HAROLD C. PEDERSON, Ext., Minneapolis, Minn.: For his ability to analyze farming and rural living problems, and to organize self-help programs to overcome them, which has greatly improved living situations in his county.

MINNIE PRICE, Ext., Columbus, Ohio: For exceptional initiative in developing rural leadership; and for her home economics leadership in organizing and planning educational programs that have served as an inspiration to other extension workers.

JEWELL J. RICHARDSON, FHA, Caruthersville, Mo.: For the remarkable manner in which he has obtained the adoption of good management on farms of Farmers Home Administration borrowers, inspired borrowers to seek and obtain much better living standards on a sound and constructive basis, and for constantly identifying the work of FHA with good farming in his county as a whole.

EDWARD F. RINEHART, Ext., Boise,

Idaho: For revolutionizing the pattern of livestock development to meet the needs of the people and conditions of the West; and he was influential in helping cowmen and sheepmen look upon each other as neighbors.

GLENN B. ROLOSON, REA, Washington, D. C.: For his vision and perseverance in the initiation, development, and application of a design of high-voltage rural electric distribution systems which permits extension of electric service to more people in rural areas than would otherwise be possible.

GEORGE P. SANDERS, BDI, Washington, D. C.: For developing the phosphate test for evaluating pasteurization of milk and dairy products; developing a new method for making dehydrated natural cheese; and for contributions to the knowledge of the chemistry of cheese ripening.

IRWIN L. SAVENSON, SCS, Baton Rouge, La.: For designing an improved system of field drainage for sugarcane land and developing effective and efficient methods of constructing drainage works.

EDNA C. SELANDER, Office of Experiment Stations, Washington, D. C.: For exceptional zeal and ability in inspiring high morale and efficiency among her fellow workers.

MARGARET M. SINKULA, PMA, Washington, D. C.: For reconstructing vital accounts and accounting records on certain appropriations which were otherwise practically useless for reporting to General Accounting Office.

JAMES A. SMYTH, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, San Juan, P. R.: For displaying unusual competence and courage beyond the call of duty in an emergency by rendering important assistance in the rescue of 28 persons from an airplane wreck which claimed 53 lives.

EMILIO SOLIS, FS, Villalba, P. R.: For reducing an overcrowded agricultural population by helping those resident families who could not be supported on the land within his district to find employment and places to live outside the forest; and for establishing an integrated land-use pattern of forest management, watershed protection, subsistence farming, and community betterment.

C. D. STEIN, BAI, Washington, D. C.: For meritorious research in the field of animal disease prevention and control, and especially for his contributions concerning anthrax and equine infectious anemia of domestic animals.

WALTER A. STROUD, PMA, Washington, D. C.: For exceptional service to the Department in advising and counseling



with reference to the fiscal aspects of transportation activities of agricultural commodities.

KENNETH F. WARNER, BAI, Washington, D. C.: For perfecting a successful laboratory machine, widely used, for measuring the tenderness of meat; and for developing and teaching methods of extension instruction and demonstration.

WALLACE E. WASHBON, Ext., Salamanca, N. Y.: For exceptional ability, zeal, and leadership in developing an extension program involving farm management, forage crops and cooperative effort of farmers.

RICHARD WETHERILL, FS, Coyote, N. Mex.: For demonstrating unusual skill and tact in handling complex grazing problems on overstocked ranges in heavily populated rural forest communities; and for improving range conditions on several ranger districts and developing sympathetic public cooperation while gaining these ends.

FLORENCE E. WRIGHT, EXT., Ithaca, N. Y.: For her teaching, vision, industry, and leadership that enriched the rural home improvement program in New York and nationally.

CHEESE INVESTIGATIONS GROUP, BDI, Washington, D. C.: For the development of a widely accepted method of manufacturing cheddar cheese of improved quality and wholesomeness from pasteurized milk.

EGG PROTEIN PROJECT, AIC, Albany, Calif.: For research resulting in greater knowledge of the chemical and biological characteristics of egg components essential to determining reasons for egg product deterioration; the medicinal and industrial usefulness of egg components; and for basic investigations of life processes, especially embryo development.

GROUP ENGAGED IN REVISING INDEXES OF PRICES, BAE, Washington, D. C.: For meritorious performance in completely revising the Bureau of Agricultural Economics Indexes of Prices Received by Farmers and of Prices Paid by Farmers.

PERRY, OKLA., WORK UNIT, SCS, Fort Worth, Tex.: For effective utilization of local leadership in the development of conservation farmers in the Noble County Soil Conservation District.

PURCELL, OKLA., WORK UNIT, SCS, Fort Worth, Tex.: For an exceptional record of accomplishments in assisting the Canadian-Walnut Soil Conservation District.

SACRAMENTO RANGER DISTRICT, SHASTA NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF., FS, Dunsmuir, Calif.: For an exceptional record of accomplishment in fire control, public re-

lations, and national forest management on the Sacramento Ranger District as a team of enthusiastic, loyal forest officers who have looked "beyond the horizon" of accepted performance to better public administration.

UTILIZATION OF SHORT-STAPLE-LENGTH COTTON FOR SMOKELESS POWDER, AIC, New Orleans, La.: For making short-staple-length cotton available for use in manufacturing smokeless powder through the development and construction of a machine for cutting lint cotton into lengths suitable for purification and conversion into smokeless powder.

(Unit awards to be made at a later date at unit headquarters.)

## Length-of-Service Awards

THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES received Length-of-Service Awards for 50 and for 40 or more years of service in the Department of Agriculture as of May 15, 1950. Joseph H. Stevenson, Office of Information, Washington, D. C., received the award for 50 years of service. The following employees received it for 40 years of service. Awards to field personnel will be made at their official headquarters.

BAKER, ARTHUR W., BAI—National Stock Yards, Ill.; BARKER, WILLIAM L., JR., FS—Milwaukee, Wis.; BRUCKART, JOHN R., FS—Eugene, Oreg.; COWAN, JAMES C., BAI—Wichita, Kans.; DAVID, Y. ZANA, FS—Sheridan, Wyo.; DENNIS, E. M. PEARL, FS—Madison, Wis.; DOOLAN, ELMER E., PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; DUTHIE, GEORGE A., FS—Washington, D. C.; FITZGERALD, DAVID J., BAI—Springfield, Mass.; FLANER, HARRY E., FS—Alameda, Calif.; HAINSWORTH, REGINALD G., FAR—Washington, D. C.; HANZLIK, EDWARD J., FS—Portland, Oreg.; HOAGLAND, RALPH, BAI—Beltsville, Md.; HUBBARD, HENRY T., BAI—Denver, Colo.; HURLEY, DANIEL P., BAI—Omaha, Nebr.; HUTCHINS, WELLS A., SCS—Berkeley, Calif.; JACOBS, JOSEPH, PMA—Washington, D. C.; JEROME, GEORGE, BAI—Milwaukee, Wis.; JOHNSON, ROBERT P. A., FS—Madison, Wis.; JONES, L. A., SCS—Washington, D. C.; KAUSE, ROBERT L., PMA—Washington, D. C.; KEYS, DON C., BAI—Kansas City, Kans.; KING, REX, FS—Albuquerque, N. Mex.; KINMAN, CHARLES F., PISAE—Beltsville, Md.; KIRBY, F. LEE, FS—Denver, Colo.; KIRKSEY, WILLIAM, BAE—Washington, D. C.; LEE, ALFRED R., BAI—Beltsville, Md.; LUGINBILL, PHILIP, EPQ—Lafayette, Ind.; MAC LEAN, JAMES D., FS—Madison, Wis.; MARSH, RAYMOND E., FS—Washington, D. C.; MATHEWS, OSCAR R., PISAE—Beltsville,

Md.; MCGINTY, GEORGE L., BAI—St. Louis, Mo.; MITCHELL, J. ALFRED, FS—St. Paul, Minn.; MYERS, WILLIAM N., BAI—Oklahoma City, Okla.; PARKER, ELMER B., BAI—Nashville, Tenn.; PARKINSON, DANA, FS—Washington, D. C.; PETERS, BERGIE L., SCS—Bellingham, Wash.; PLATT, HENRY E., BAI—Washington, D. C.; RICHARDS, WILLIAM R., BAI—Louisville, Ky.; ROHWER, SIEVERT A., EPQ—Washington, D. C.; RUPPS, JOSEPH F., BAI—Rochester, N. Y.; SETTLE, DAVID E.: BAI—Sacramento, Calif.; SIZER, FRANCENE E., FS—Washington, D. C.; SNYDER, THOMAS, E., EPQ—Beltsville, Md.; WEIR, RAYMOND J., P&O—Washington, D. C.; WOLFF, MEYER H., FS—Missoula, Mont.; WOOSTER, CHARLES R., FS—Madison, Wis.; WRIGHT, R. CLAUDE, PISAE—Beltsville, Md.

## Stevenson's 50 years

JOSEPH H. STEVENSON, administrative officer in charge of illustrations, Office of Information, completed 50 years of service in USDA on June 8, 1949, all of it in the same line of work and in the same administrative unit or its predecessor organizations. Truly an artist as well as an expert draftsman he has rendered notable service to the Department of Agriculture indeed since he arrived from Kansas on a terrifically hot Washington day in 1899. Only to be told by local members of the Liar's Club that a 35-inch snow had fallen but a few weeks earlier.

From his earliest youth Mr. Stevenson knew just what he wanted to do and be. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, where his father knew "Tama" Jim Wilson as a member of the State legislature, he specialized in mathematics, physics, and drawing when the family moved to Kansas; he graduated from Maplehill High School. Very soon after that he came to Washington, having duly passed an examination, and took a job while "Tama" Jim was Secretary of Agriculture. Thereafter he cooked in the summer heat of the top floor in the old Red Brick Building, but rarely saw Secretary Wilson. He does remember, however, looking out the window one day in the gathering dusk to see Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft walking in the USDA grounds, admiring the flowers.

Stevenson knew he wanted to be an artist and draftsman, and that's just what he became. Because he was such a fine master of the blueprint he was called upon to draw plans for many agencies and today those blueprints stand up and are admired by younger



and usually less gifted men. His early appointments bore Secretary Wilson's signature in facsimile and he rose from plain draftsman to take charge of USDA's illustrations work by 1920. He entered the Department in the day of the giants—Wiley, Pinchot, Salmon, Merriam, Whitney, Knapp, Spillman, Howard, Galloway, Atwater, Swingle, Carleton, Fairchild, Hansen—to name a few, and while wood engravers were still employed to produce illustrations. His promotions came regularly with due commendation from his supervisors as an excellent, conscientious worker—gifted, intelligent, and highly productive.

The old Red Brick Building was already crowded when Stevenson entered the service. Department work was scattered in many residences and other inappropriate structures nearby. But everybody still knew practically everybody else. Stevenson remained on to a day when things are vastly different, far more complex, tremendously expanded. Tempted once only by an outside offer, he is glad he resisted, for it blew up in bankruptcy soon after. He has been a faithful servant of the people. He turns his half century of work looking young, fit, and ready to enjoy his mandatory retirement at the end of November this year, sound in health, ambitious to travel, and destined to carry on many years.

## George Ackerman retires

GEORGE W. ACKERMAN, chief photographer of the Extension Service for 30 years, and a USDA employee for over 32 years, retired on May 31, ending a career that took him into every State of the country, and into practically every agricultural county. Born in Baltimore, Md., George was interested in photography from childhood. His father, in earlier days an aerialist in a circus, was in charge of the physical training program of the Baltimore city police force. The elder Ackerman adopted photography as a hobby. This appealed strongly to George, and soon he was working diligently alongside his father. They built their own dark room, developed their own pictures, and, soon, George became a pretty good amateur photographer.

His interest in photography and the training he received from his father was to stand him in good stead. When George was only 16, Ackerman, Sr., passed away. As the eldest of 14 children, George fell heir to become the breadwinner for the family. His photographic skill began to pay dividends. By

1910, he became a full-time photographer, and was placed in charge of the photographic work of a large commercial firm, a position he held until he entered USDA in 1918 as chief photographer of the old Office of Illustrations, joining the Extension Service 2 years later.

As one of the early pioneers, George made an art of rural photography. He probably has succeeded better than any other rural photographer in putting life, interest, and drama into agricultural pictures. In a manner of speaking, George has seen the evolution of photography from the horse-and-buggy days to streamlined modern technique. Some of the pictures that he took two decades ago are still in demand. He estimates that he has taken over 50,000 pictures. Almost every farm publication in the country, and many general magazines have used his photographs to illustrate articles. One of George's major contributions to the Extension program is his understanding of rural photography and his ability to impart that understanding to his fellow workers.

## L. O. Howard

DR. LELAND OSSIAN HOWARD, almost the last of a famous galaxy of scientists which adorned the USDA a generation or more ago, died May 1 at his home in Bronxville, N. Y., aged 92. A native of Illinois he took his B. S. and his M. S. at Cornell and his doctor's degree at Washington University. He entered the Division of Entomology in 1878 as a student assistant to John R. Comstock and became its head in June 1894 and the first chief of the Bureau of Entomology when it was established July 1, 1904. He retired October 15, 1927, but continued on as principal entomologist until 1931. Estimates that the Department research he performed and directed saved American farmers more than a billion dollars that would otherwise have been lost to insect pests are probably conservative.

As early as 1888 Dr. Howard achieved an international reputation in his field. He was widely honored both in his own country and in foreign lands. Particularly expert on the housefly, the malaria mosquito, and the boll weevil, he was a living directory of every branch of his science. His almost innumerable publications ran the gamut from the highly technical to very popular and widely read books like the *Insect Menace* and *Fighting the Insects*. While science was his principal devotion he also enjoyed music, billiards, golf, bridge, and foreign travel, and his journeys took him to every continent. One of the mighty has fallen!

## No Dust Bowl—IF

DUST BLOWING up out of the southern and central Great Plains this spring worse than since the 1930's has shaped the big question mark: "Will there be another Dust Bowl?"

The Soil Conservation Service, which literally cut its first teeth on the old so-called "Dust Bowl," replies: There won't be one this year, and it hopes there need never be another, but the widely spotted 1950 drought and wind erosion give warning enough that a situation like that of 15 years ago can repeat itself. That is, if conservation tillage and cropping are not used consistently and ever more widely, and if hazardous marginal lands plowed up during and after World War II aren't taken out of cultivation before prolonged drought may strike.

These soil conservationists, working mostly in the farmer-organized and farmer-managed Soil Conservation Districts, have spent the breathing spell provided by a straight run of seven or eight wet years in helping to get conservation farming onto every possible acre while weather, farmers' financial and other conditions were favorable. They also have been perfecting such soil and moisture conservation measures and devices as subsurface or stubble-mulch tillage, more and better grasses and legumes, water-holding terraces, and contour and wind-strip cropping. This spring's experience has demonstrated everywhere that wherever such properly planned and applied practices are used there was little or no soil blowing.

Up to January 1, 1950, landowners of the 10 Great Plains States had formed 412 Soil Conservation Districts covering about 250,500,000 acres and a third of a million farms. Although a substantial part of this acreage has been planned and treated, the big job admittedly lies ahead. Significantly, the heart of the old Dust Bowl area has weathered this spring's blowing satisfactorily, in contrast with some areas where farmers had not been faced before with the importance and necessity of farming the conservation way. The goal of the districts and SCS is to beat another real drought to the draw with conservation throughout the Plains.

● ●  
**SAVE FOR YOUR INDEPENDENCE!!**  
Buy U. S. Savings Bonds on the Payroll Savings Plan or otherwise to bring yourself future good luck. The Independence Drive lasts until July 4. **SAVE FOR INDEPENDENCE!!**



## ACP and AWOL farms

EVER SEE a farm go AWOL? Had you been out in the high plains country of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, or New Mexico a few weeks ago you'd have seen a good many farms "going over the hill." Blanketed in dark rolling clouds, many a "forty," or "eighty," or quarter section "lit out" for Kansas City and points North and East. These farms just pick up and leave when the skies dry up and the wind keeps on blowing. Despite conservation programs, recent dust storms in this area again have attracted national attention with crops destroyed and millions of tons of topsoil blown away.

There are still some "take-a-chance" farmers, concerned only in immediate gains, who are not cooperating in conservation programs. And not all cooperators have done too effective a job of protecting the land. Then, too, even where the best conservation work is done, it may not be entirely effective when a long dry spell is accompanied by incessant high winds. At times, even sod fails to check the blowing of some light soils. But USDA conservation programs have been effective in holding a lot of the soil in this area. Farmers using the Agricultural Conservation program and those in Soil Conservation Districts have done much to keep the land from blowing.

From 1936 through 1948, farmers of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico, cooperating in the ACP have protected the land with 38,642,436 acres of green manure and cover crops; established a permanent cover on 414,258 acres; constructed standard and broad-base terraces to protect 8,940,829 acres; carried out contour strip-cropping on 1,104,032 acres; field stripping on 4,801,253 acres; protected summer fallow on 56,854,689 acres; carried out tillage operations such as pit cultivation and basin listing on 66,070,714 acres; pit cultivation alone on an additional 9,180,202 acres; stubble mulch on 11,175,065 acres; protected 52,272,151 acres by leaving stalks and stubble on the land; seeded to grass and legumes 6,154,893 acres; and planted trees on 34,870 acres.

### DUTY

As employees of the USDA we not only have rights and privileges; we have duties. Paragraph 2090 of the Administrative Regulations reads thus: "It is the duty of employees of the Department to serve the people well and faithfully, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, and to administer these laws and the work of the Department impartially, efficiently, and in accordance with the public interest."

## Good management

THE FOLLOWING is a summary of the talk made by Secretary Brannan before the Washington, D. C., meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Management, April 20 last.

In its simplest terms, good management means doing the job assigned to us in the best possible way. It means doing that job with a minimum of cost in dollars and manpower—provided, however, we do not thereby sacrifice the effectiveness of the job that we are given to do. \* \* \* Failure is the one thing Government can least afford. The most efficiently managed Government program is a costly waste and extravagance if it fails to accomplish for the people the objectives it was created to achieve. \* \* \*

Government and industry are vastly different operations. \* \* \* Government management does not function with the same freedom as private industrial management. In private business the board directing a corporation can entrust greater authority to the management. Government management must adhere at all times to the spirit and the letter of the law laid down by the Congress in creating specific programs. And the Congress often finds it advisable to say not only just what organization shall administer that specific program, but to spell out in detail its intent as to how it shall be administered. \* \* \*

The President and the Congress have both directed that increased and regular attention be given to economy of our operations and effectiveness of our programs. They are inseparably linked. Management-improvement plans must reflect the predominant importance of program functions. \* \* \* Our Department has an active program for improving its organization and management. Since 1944 it has had a plan known as the Management Improvement and Manpower Utilization Program, and its objectives are to reduce costs, save manpower, simplify procedures, save materials, expedite operations, and improve organization.

The President's Management Improvement Program as described in Executive Order 10072 gave ours a new boost. We are, of course, giving full support to the President's program, recognizing as we do the existing budgetary limitations on peacetime programs and the necessity for maximum public service from funds appropriated to the Department of Agriculture. Our management improvement program is essentially a bureau and agency program; that is, each agency of the Department has its own plan and carries on its own improvement work. The great bulk of improvements are made in our bureaus and agencies where the services to agriculture and the country generally are carried on. All employees of the Department play a part in improving their own work and methods, and in discovering places where changes can be made so that the work of the Department may be carried out effectively and economically. \* \* \*

Government does not operate on a profit motive, but the need for management research in Government is as great as in industry since we must use our money just as wisely. A good organization must not be static; we need continuing review from within, and occasional appraisal from the outside. \* \* \* Work must be delegated and it must be reviewed. But, in my opinion, it would be possible to manage the affairs of a department very well from a technical standpoint and still fail to do the kind of a job that the people have a right to expect. \* \* \* Often we need not only to improve administration within the existing framework of our programs, but must also look for a better framework itself.

We must not only solve perplexing problems, we must also find ways to avoid those problems. \* \* \* It is the responsibility of Government administrators to recommend changes when they believe a new course would both improve effectiveness of a program, and make it much simpler and less costly to administer. \* \* \* We must keep end results in mind at all times. The program must meet the need which brought the program into being. That is the objective not only of good management, but of good Government.

## NF council and board

SECRETARY BRANNAN announced on May 3 that the National Forest Board of Review was renamed the National Forest Advisory Council. This is the body that advises the Secretary on matters of general policy. Responsibility for advising him on ordinary appeals is the function of the National Forest Advisory Boards of Appeals. The Council will advise on matters of general policy concerning use by the public of the National Forests and of other lands under the administration or control of the Forest Service. No member may have financial interest in such lands. Members are appointed on a basis of personal competency and not as representatives of any group or organization interested in these lands. They may be paid a salary or per diem as determined by the Secretary.

Secretary Brannan asked the three men comprising the former National Forest Board of Review to serve as members of the newly established National Forest Advisory Council. They are: Dr. Jonathan Forman, Columbus, Ohio; Prof. Gilmour B. MacDonald, retired head of Iowa State's department of forestry; and Dr. Roland Roger Renne, president of Montana State College.

The five-man National Forest Advisory Board of Appeals, established by the Secretary January 17, 1950, consists of USDA employees in agencies other than FS. Persons who wish to appeal decisions of the Chief Forester to the Secretary of Agriculture may appear before this board which will hear them and make recommendations. Its present membership is: John C. Bagwell, Office of the Solicitor, chairman; George R. Phillips, Office of the Secretary; Edward G. Grest, Soil Conservation Service; Dr. Stanley B. Fracker, Agricultural Research Administration; and John A. Goe, Production and Marketing Administration.

### Socking the Jap beetle

"Effectiveness of Methoxychlor Against the Japanese Beetle" is the title of a new processed publication by Walter E. Flemming and Warren W. Maines, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. Get it directly from EPQ; ask for E-797.



# Brief but important

## Says Lord Boyd-Orr—

"What is called communism in backward countries is hunger becoming articulate. You can't build world peace on empty stomachs."

## Futures trading regulation

"Twenty-Five Years of Futures Trading Under Federal Regulation," a processed publication originally prepared September 1947, has been revised as of April 26, 1950, and is available from the Commodity Exchange Authority, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Gibbs studies tobacco markets

J. Barnard Gibbs, head of the tobacco and tropical products work in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, and an authority on foreign competition and demand for tobacco, has gone to Europe to study market outlets for tobacco there and in northern Africa. The project is financed under the Research and Marketing Act.

## "The Weekend Gardener"

This is the title of a new \$2.75 book from Rinehart & Co., Inc., New York City, by Dorothy H. Jenkins, garden editor of the New York Times. It is designed to aid amateurs who want to know where to begin; those who have little time to spend outdoors and who want a fine garden with the least effort and expense (we prefer just to dream about it); and the author is herself a confirmed weekend gardener.

## Drought insurance

New Farmers' Bulletin No. 2002 is entitled "For Insurance Against Drought—Soil and Water Conservation." It is by Tom Dale, an information specialist in Soil Conservation Service, and was prepared in collaboration with the appropriate subject-matter specialists. See how you like it. Does an information man write better than a scientist? Procure as you do other printed publications and not from the editor of *USDA* who has no supply.

## The potato situation

If you are interested in the potato situation, how we got into it and possible avenues of exit, you might like to read a mimeographed account of a panel discussion on the subject in which the following participated: S. R. Smith of Production and Marketing Administration; Dr. R. M. Salter, Mr. Avery S. Hoyt, and Dr. Hazel K. Stiebeling of Agricultural Research Administration; Dr. O. C. Stine and Mr. Carl Heisig of Bureau of Agricultural Economics; and Mr. Wesley McCune, executive assistant to the Secretary. If so write the editor of *USDA* (see address in back-page masthead) and ask for "The Potato Situation."

## Riboflavin in sow's milk

Not long ago a research team at the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station did some work on this subject which conflicted with that done at the National Institute for Research in Dairying at the University of Reading, England. So they took the novel step of getting in direct touch with the British group of investigators; methods and procedures were ironed out, and in *Nature* (London) for April 1, 1950 (p. 622-23) you will find a joint contribution signed by both groups and indicating that there is about as much riboflavin in sow's as in cow's milk, when properly determined. *Nature* editorially complimented these research workers for their choice of direct action instead of indulging in polemics and wasting space in scientific journals—and maybe that would be a way to lower research publication costs at that.

## Urea leaf sprays for apples

You will find some details about the use of the new urea leaf sprays as sources of nitrogen in apple orchards in release No. 1119 for which write the editor of *USDA*—see address in back-page masthead. Therein Dr. C. P. Harley of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering summarizes his conclusions from his own studies.

## Standards

If interested in matters relating to standards that may concern the Department of Agriculture and USDA's cooperation with the American Standards Association in the preparation of standards, procure from the Secretary's Records Section Secretary's Memorandum No. 1230, Supplement 1, May 2, which also gives the amended list of membership in the Department's standards committee.

## Machine secretaries

A machine was exhibited at the recent southern California business show which adds, subtracts, multiplies, divides, types, lists, posts, and can make up its own problems. There was also a push-button letter-writer built on the theory that 90 percent of all business letters say the same things, hence can be reproduced by a machine which uses interchangeable standard paragraphs as required. The boss can open his mail, punch the required buttons on the machine, and go to lunch. The machines are occasionally temperamental but do not abuse the boss and a mechanic soon has them purring again. A dictating machine that can spell properly and correct the atrocious grammar of the boss is on the way.

## Dr. Craighead retired

Dr. Frank C. Craighead, for nearly 27 years in charge of investigations on insect pests affecting forests and forest products, has retired from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine after Government service since 1910, bar 3 years as forest entomologist with the Canadian Government. Dr. Craighead is a native of Pennsylvania who took his B. S. in forestry and biology at Penn State and his M. S. and Ph. D. from George Washington. He was among the first entomologists to appreciate the importance of insects in forest resource conservation. His contributions to our knowledge of the grubs of beetles were outstanding, and the recent book "Insect Enemies of Eastern Forests", prepared under his supervision, is a monumental work of unique importance. Throughout his life he has held that trees should be harvested by man and not by beetles or other insects.

## The batata and the papa

The true potato is a member of the morning-glory family, was called "batata" by the Indians when the white man first arrived on this continent, and is the sweetpotato of today. Not until 1538 did the Spaniards, pushing into what is now Colombia, discover the white-meated tuber the Incas called "papas" and which we miscall the potato or, even worse, the "Irish" potato. It is a member of the nightshade family. It early developed a false reputation as poisonous or a soil poisoner, and its use spread slowly. But the Irish took hold of it early as nutrient and, in 1719, Irish immigrants brought the first potatoes to North America, planting them in Rockingham County, N. H.—hence the name "Irish" potato. Frederick the Great had trouble making his peasants grow these potatoes, Marie Antoinette helped popularize them in France, devout Scottish folk scorned them because the Bible did not mention them—until hunger overcame their scruples in 1740—and you know the recent dolorous past of this prolific vegetable well enough without repetition here.

## Durbot

A little tomato so named, resistant to fusarium wilt, made the long journey from South Africa to the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station about 1940, and the geneticists got busy. Durbot still has a few flaws the scientists expect to overcome but looks promising here far from the Transvaal.

## "India Can Feed Itself"

This is the striking and rather arresting title of an article in *Foreign Agriculture* for May (issued by our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations) prepared by Henry W. Spielman, now our agricultural attaché in Karachi, Pakistan, formerly agricultural consul in Bombay, India. The remainder of this issue of *Foreign Agriculture* is also of course worth reading.

## Field people—how does USDA come?

Does *USDA* reach you relatively on time, say within 4 or 5 days of the date of issue, which is the date on which it leaves the Government Printing Office and is delivered to your agency? If you get a single copy, does it ever come so wrapped that you cannot disentangle it from the wrapper without tearing it? If so, please tell the editor (see address in back-page masthead) and he will try to have something done about better wrapping.

## Sweetpotato candy

Alayam candy is a brittle made from sweetpotato puree, finely ground coconut, and sugar. It was developed in a Research and Marketing Act project and a study of its acceptability by consumers was carried on jointly by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. You will find a few details in release No. 1118, which procure from Press Service, *USDA*, or you may get from the Alabama Station, at Auburn, the bulletin "Consumer Reactions to Alayam Candy."

## Barberry bush

New Farmers' Bulletin 2014 is "Kill Barberry Bushes That Spread Stem Rust to Grains." It was prepared in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. It convicts the European, Alleghany, and Colorado barberries as rust spreaders but absolves the Japanese barberry. It tells its story interestingly and well. It advises that you ask your county agent if in doubt about the harmlessness of a barberry bush of your own. Procure as you do other printed publications; we do not have copies to send out from *USDA*.

## Not up-and-down but sideways

Our engineers have found that it is not so much up-and-down jouncing that shatters the berries of bunches of boxed grapes in refrigerator cars, and makes the bunches wet, as it is back-and-forth shifting that results from loose loading. A mere 2 inches of end-to-end play among the boxes of grapes in a car can do plenty of damage. Padding does not help; bracing the boxes does, also packing them together tightly. Then if the engineer would just handle the cars more gently . . . well, you've ridden in a sleeper haven't you?

## Man that hoe!

To hoe is a safer if a more arduous way of eradicating weeds from any home garden of a half-acre or less planted to assorted crops than to spray weed killer. Spraying with 2,4-D has its moments, but not in such gardens where many crops like beans and tomatoes are highly sensitive to it. You must even spray lawns carefully to avoid injury to flowers and shrubs when eradicating dandelions, plantain, and other broad-leaf weeds. Use of a hoe or cultivator will probably take less time, too, in the average family-size garden than spraying with weed killers.



## John Roy Cohran

Mr. Cohran, assistant to the chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, has retired after nearly 45 years of service. A native of Kentucky, he entered BAI August 21, 1905, and became its business manager January 1, 1936. The size of his bureau has trebled since he entered it. He has handled business, financial, and personnel problems in the old Red Brick Building, the Munsey Building, and the East Wing, and was noted throughout his career for his encouragement of ambitious youngsters in the Government service.

## Repair your house?

"care and repair of the house," written thus without capitals, is the title of a comprehensive green-covered booklet of two-hundred-odd pages by Vincent B. Phelan, National Bureau of Standards. It looks complete and very helpful but don't make the mistake of trying to get a free copy from the Department of Commerce; instead send 50 cents to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Sorry, but you may as well give up now; you have to buy this. Ask for Circular 489, issued December 7, 1949, and give title; it looks worth much more than 50 cents.

## Top grade

Twenty-five positions in Government were recently selected by the President as worthy of being placed in grade GS-18 (\$14,000). Among those in USDA who made this grade were Dr. Philip V. Cardon, administrator of the Agricultural Research Administration; O. V. Wells, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; Stanley Andrews, director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations; and W. Carroll Hunter, the Department solicitor. USDA also got a share of the 75 positions placed in GS-17 (\$12,200-\$13,000) and of the 300 placed in GS-16 (\$11,200-\$12,000).

## Research pays off again

A very serious threat to our poultry industry has been averted by prompt cooperation between the California Division of Animal Industry and our Bureau of Animal Industry. An air shipment of game birds—pheasant, quail, duck, and partridge—from Hong Kong, consigned to a California bird fancier, brought into the country Asiatic Newcastle disease which is extremely virulent and deadly. However, laboratory studies at the University of California served to identify the infection and all infected and exposed birds were slaughtered and the premises disinfected. This form of Newcastle disease is far more deadly than the one now established in the United States.

## Lewis retires at SRRL

Walter S. Lewis, physicist at the Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans, retired April 28 after 38 years in the Government service. He is the first employee to retire from the big Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry laboratory since it began operations 10 years ago. Mr. Lewis served the laboratory for the past 8 years in the testing of new cotton textile processes and products. He was a member of the SRRL team that received a Superior Service Award last year for improving cotton tire cord. Before joining the staff there, Mr. Lewis had lengthy experience in textile evaluation work with other Government agencies, particularly the National Bureau of Standards. He was the first head of that Bureau's textile section established in 1911. A graduate of the Lowell Textile Institute, Lowell, Mass., Mr. Lewis expects to reverse the usual procedure and return from New Orleans to Massachusetts following his retirement.

## Farm real estate values

During the period November through March farm real estate values increased slightly, small increases in 19 States offsetting decreases in 20 and raising the average by 1 percent since November last. If you want more detail State-by-State write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1153.

## Agriculture and steel

We have copies of an excellent mimeographed statement by Louis H. Bean of the Office of the Secretary entitled "Agriculture, Industry, and Steel." If you want a copy write the editor of USDA and request it by title. See back-page masthead for address. This is a very stimulating and meaty factual statement indeed.

## Enemy of Japanese beetle

An imported enemy of the Japanese beetle, the spring *Tiphia*, has proved to be the most effective of several parasites of the beetle so far introduced. J. L. King and L. B. Parker of EPQ are authors of a new processed publication on this insect. Get it from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; ask for E-799.

## Babcock Hall

The cornerstone of 2.5-million-dollar Babcock Hall at University of Wisconsin has been placed. Named after Dr. Stephen Moulton Babcock, famous for his butterfat test for milk, but who did much other important and valuable research, the building should be completed this year and will be equipped for research and teaching in all fields of dairy processing. It will also have a section devoted to research and teaching in food technology.

## Foot-and-mouth lab

A site on Prudence Island, a part of Rhode Island situated in Narragansett Bay approximately half way between the mouth of the Bay and the city of Providence, has been optioned for the proposed extensive laboratory facilities to be used by USDA in the study of foot-and-mouth disease. The island contains about 2,500 acres, has gently rolling topography, and was one of several island sites considered by the Secretary's Research Advisory Committee on Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

## Simpler refractometer developed

A new device has been developed in a Research and Marketing Act project carried on by USDA (through Production and Marketing Administration) and Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. for simple, rapid determination of the iodine numbers of flaxseed and soybean oils. If the number is high an oil is better suited for paints; if low, for food uses. The refractometer generally used, with its accessories, costs about \$2,000. The new hand refractometer is simpler, costs only about \$200, and requires no particular skill to operate.

## Gaining 2 days a week

A columnist's idea of how to gain 2 days a week is relayed to us by the Administrative Bulletin, Region 5, Forest Service, as follows: Save 1 hour each day by getting up when the alarm goes off, dressing 19 minutes faster, planning your day's work, avoiding arguments, doing no unnecessary reading, and reducing long-windedness on the telephone; save 2 hours each by shortening the lunch hour, getting to work on time and working until time to quit, cutting out the coffee-social period, dictating short letters instead of monographs, and minding your own business by not giving free advice. That totals 16 hours saved (we hope). There you are: 2 more days in each week.

## Wanna make a speech?

Evidently a lot of you do want to make a speech and prefer to do it well, even if this requires some boning up. We found that out when offering Ivan D. Wood's talk on Public Speaking, "Public Speaking for Businessmen," a big \$3.50 book which our Library has, might contain some hints for you even if it is directed at businessmen. It is by William G. Hoffman, chairman of the English department and professor of English and public speaking at Boston University's College of Business Administration. It has been newly revised and enlarged and reissued by the publishers, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York City. Look it up or buy it, if interested.

## Faithful crop reporter

For many years voluntary unpaid crop reporters have sent in to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics carefully filled out questionnaires upon which our crop reports are based. So faithful was A. L. Reynolds of Pond Creek, Okla., in getting his monthly report in to the Crop Reporting Board that he had his wife transmit it March 27, when he was ill in the hospital of a condition from which he died 3 days later. He had served as a reporter since 1919 without ever failing to return a questionnaire. In many instances sons take up the work as reporters when the fathers pass on. The reporters regard their unremunerated work as an honor and a privilege.

## Teamwork

Teamwork is appreciated by Dr. S. L. Emsweller of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering—he was formerly an athletics coach—who is in charge of USDA's work on ornamental plants. There was the splendid teamwork of Dr. Philip Brierley, a plant pathologist, and Dr. Floyd F. Smith, an entomologist, in demonstrating that chrysanthemum stunt was a virus disease and in clarifying the virus disease of gladiolus and Easter lilies. There was also fine teamwork between Dr. Neil W. Stuart, a plant physiologist, and Dr. W. D. McClellan, a plant pathologist, on the effects of nutrition upon the severity of both basal rot of daffodils and fusarium diseases of gladiolus. Both offer excellent examples.

## Eye cancer in range cattle

Studies by R. R. Woodward and Bradford Knapp, Jr., of Bureau of Animal Industry, using the records at the United States Range Livestock Experiment Station, Miles City, Mont., indicate that range cattle can inherit susceptibility to eye cancer (carcinoma). Progeny of affected mature animals should be culled from purebred herds and herd sires should be selected that have no history of eye cancer among their ancestors. In some cases removal of the diseased eye from affected animals is recommended. As the incidence of eye cancer is probably higher in range than in any other cattle the financial loss is considerable; the incidence was 4.7 percent among 1,566 animals at Miles City, but carcinomas were found in each generation of at least one family since the studies began.

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## Science foundation

THE PRESIDENT has signed the bill establishing a National Science Foundation. The Director of the Foundation, to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, is responsible to the President. His salary is \$15,000 annually and his responsibilities are somewhat limited by those retained by the board of 24 members, eminent in basic science, medical science, engineering, agriculture, education, or public affairs, also to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Authorization is for the appropriation of 15 million dollars annually.

Functions of the Foundation will be to support basic research through contracts, grants, or fellowships; to evaluate the Federal research program; and to act as a central clearing house on scientific personnel. It will have four major divisions—medical research; mathematical, physical, and engineering science; biological science; and scientific personnel. Others can be created as required. The Foundation has special authority to accept gifts; to arrange for the publication of scientific and technical information; to pursue a liberal patent policy; and to defray the expenses of Government scientists attending international congresses. It cannot operate laboratories or work in the field of nuclear energy. Funds can be transferred to the Foundation from other agencies with approval of the agency head. The personnel security provisions originally suggested were considerably modified in the legislation as approved.

## Research patents

Dr. Archie M. Palmer, who talked on the above subject before the 1947 meeting of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, is also the author of "University Research and Patent Problems," available from the National Research Council in processed form at \$1.

## Employee Council

SIXTEEN MEMBERS and 16 alternates ranging from GS-5 to GS-15 have been elected by the employees of the Department to the new Employee Council. This Council will advise the Director of Personnel on matters concerning employee interest and welfare. This method of bringing constructive employee suggestions and viewpoints to the attention of the Director of Personnel is an extension of the informal means already used in USDA to secure employee participation in the formulation of personnel policies and practices. Several USDA agencies have formed a sub-council to advise the agency representative of employee interests. Field employees, take note of this development.

The Employee Council has been officially organized. Director of Personnel T. Roy Reid met with the group the first time, May 26, 1950. Agency representatives and alternates (second name), all from the Washington, D. C., area, include:

DONALD J. SIMON, ANNA M. McNUTT, Office of the Secretary; FRANCIS R. DONOHUE, HARRY W. HENDERSON, Production and Marketing Administration; GEORGE H. GOLDSBOROUGH, WELLS E. LUDLOW, Farm Credit Administration; ESTEVAH E. WEBB, FRANCIS F. S. HARRELL, Farmers Home Administration; GLENN W. SITZ, ROBERT W. HAYS, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; GALEN YATES, RICHARD B. THOMAS, Office of Information; EMORY M. PITTINGER, ERASTINE E. PURYEAR, Library; PAUL W. SMITH, SHELBY A. ROBERT, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; WILLIAM H. ROHRMAN, ALICE I. FRAY, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations; MARY CONNER MYERS, ARAM G. PANOSSIAN, Office of the Solicitor; VICTOR R. BOSWELL, ROSCOE W. MORGAN, Agricultural Research Administration; CANNON C. HEARNE, HOWARD H. WILLIAMSON, Extension Service; CATHERINE DOHERTY, H. J. EBERLY, Forest Service; T. J. McLAUGHLIN, REX D. THOMAS, Soil Conservation Service; ALTA B. HAMLIN, JOHN TVELIA, Rural Electrification Administration; JAMES COKER, HELEN M. SACHLEBEN, Commodity Exchange Authority.

BUY U. S. SAVINGS BONDS FOR INDEPENDENCE

## Multiple crop insurance

MULTIPLE CROP INSURANCE (now available in 55 counties) provides protection to the insured against loss on his insurable crops due to unavoidable causes such as drought, flood, hail, insect infestation, plant disease, winter-kill. It is part of the authorized program of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation. Legislation provides that multiple crop insurance shall not be provided in any county unless written applications for insurance are filed which cover at least 200 farms or one-third of the farms producing the insurable commodities, whichever is the lower. Each insurance unit will be counted as one farm in meeting this requirement.

The insured is protected on annual crops each year generally from the time of seeding to the completion of harvest. For crops other than annuals the protection extends generally over the growing period. Only one application and one policy is needed by a producer for all his operations in a county. In the multiple crop program a farmer insures all of his insurable crops under one contract and the protection offered is against loss from all insured crops combined. This plan thus gives the diversified farmer protection against the loss of the major part of his total investment in most of his crops rather than against a smaller part of his total investment which may be represented by some one or two crops.

There is a coverage established in dollars for the insurance unit based on the number of acres planted to the various insured crops. The premium is based on the number of acres and interest in each insured crop, the risks on the various crops, and the extent of diversification. To avoid the inconvenience of periodic renewal, the policy has no termination date and continues in effect from year to year until canceled by either the insured or the Corporation. For the protection of both, the policy specifies a date for each county prior to which cancellation by either party must be made for any crop year. Notices of changes, if any, in the contract will be mailed to the insured at least 15 days prior to cancellation date.

## Prepackaging problems

The prepackaging of fruits and vegetables at farm shipping points reduces shipping costs and has other obvious advantages but there are many problems to be solved before the method can be widely recommended. For details on these, as discussed by Harold A. Schomer, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1217.



## Edwy B. Reid retired

EDWY B. REID, director of information and extension for Farm Credit Administration, has retired after more than 40 years of rural journalism and Government information work. A native of Michigan and the son of a rural editor who published his weekly for more than 60 years, Mr. Reid graduated from Michigan State in 1912, and began to work on farm papers. He was an early associate of Herbert Myrick, one of the sponsors of the original Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916. In 1925 he took a position handling information for the land banks and the intermediate credit banks, and assumed his present position in 1933, when FCA was established.

But his Government career really began in 1915 when he took a Civil Service examination and received an appointment as an editor. When Secretary Houston coordinated all responsibilities for USDA publication under the Assistant Secretary in October 1917, Mr. Reid was chief editor of the Division of Manuscripts. He became chief of the Division of Publications in July 1918, and Secretary Houston placed him in charge of press, publications, exhibits, and motion picture work in September 1919. Secretary Meredith, on September 4, 1920, gave Mr. Reid the title Director of Information and, until his resignation 2 months later, he was in charge of the Office of Information then in the Office of the Secretary. This office was discontinued by Secretary Henry C. Wallace.

Mr. Reid left USDA in 1920 to become editor of the Western Edition of Farm and Home, but returned to Washington the same year to represent the Farm Bureau Federation. In 1923, along with E. G. Nourse, Charles W. Holman, and others, he was instrumental in incorporating the American Institute of Cooperation, the present national educational body of farmers' cooperatives. With a natural nose for news and great skill in recognizing good stories Edwy Reid was always picking up information which he used in innumerable published articles in leading farm, co-op, banking, and credit journals.

### Columbia River Basin

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1256, May 9, 1950, tells about the plan for a multiple-purpose agricultural program for the Columbia River Basin Area to be prepared by this Department and No. 1257 of the same date announces the establishment of a Field Committee for the Area. If interested in details procure these memoranda from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, 134W, Ext. 3337—or write in there.

## Smokey Bear's Club

ONE OF THE most exclusive clubs in the country is being organized and promoted by the Forest Service and cooperating agencies as part of the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Program. Known as Smokey Bear's Club of Who's Who in Forest Fire Prevention, the organization has, so far, formally enrolled only a few select individuals. Membership is based on outstanding support of the educational drive to reduce man-caused forest fires. The official award acknowledging membership in the club is designated by presentation of a colorful placard of Smokey, the forest-fire prevention bear, symbol of the campaign sponsored by The Advertising Council and conducted by State foresters and the FS. Each placard carries the recipient's name and the following message: "Thanks For Helping Prevent Forest Fires—Smokey."

President Truman was the first person to receive the award and the latest dignitary to be awarded membership in this exclusive club is Gen. George C. Marshall, wartime Chief of Staff and now president of the American Red Cross. Lyle F. Watts, chief of the FS, and Joseph F. Kaylor, president of the Association of State Foresters, presented General Marshall with his award recently. It was given in recognition of the outstanding work done by local chapters of the National Red Cross in connection with the Forest Fire Prevention Campaign. Other recent recipients include Vincent Riggio, chairman of the board of the American Tobacco Co., and Fred Waring, the orchestra leader, both for outstanding radio support of forest-fire prevention. Governors of several States are scheduled to be presented with the Smokey Bear awards during the coming year.

## Charley Duncan's progress

CHARLEY DUNCAN of Lake City, Fla., is 1 of the 11 children his sharecropper parents had. He married 12 years ago and for 7 years sharecropped from farm to farm in northern Florida getting nowhere until 5 years ago when he moved to his present farm to sharecrop with the white owner. His new landlord believed in diversification so Mr. Duncan forsook cotton to grow hogs, cattle, peanuts, tobacco, sugarcane, watermelons, and corn, and the first year he and his wife cleared \$400, the most money they had ever had at one time. This and more they salted away, and 3 years ago the owner was forced to retire by ill health. The Duncans bought their holding paying half down.

Aided by the county agent and other State and Federal farm experts they produced, in 1949, a thousand bushels of corn on 35 acres which fed 30 hogs that brought \$900 after they had sold \$600 worth of the grain. They grossed \$1,500 from tobacco, \$400 from watermelons, \$200 from sugarcane, \$150 from a couple of calves, and \$800 from peanuts—not including the 3 acres of goobers hogged off by swine. They bought a tractor for cash. They have saved timber off their own land and stacked it to dry for building a new home. In 3 years they have climbed from a lifetime of sharecropping to ownership of a 140-acre farm.

So when you see articles which tell how many Federal and State agricultural employees there are in one county, and what this costs—even if the statistics are accurate—remember the Charlie Duncans. Money spent in providing farmers with sound advice brings huge returns as does the money invested in agricultural research which made the giving of this advice possible in the first place. Don't just count the costs; count the returns, too.

## Management

A LARGE mail-order house has 150,000 employees, hence it meets the problem of all large units: Individual employees feel they lack adequate recognition. All big organizations encounter this problem. This one has task forces which make periodical surveys of its employees, first by means of questionnaires, then, after spotting units with morale problems, by confidential personal interviews with employees during which all information is given anonymously and no worker has to worry about being put on the spot for his gripes. The company has also broken its huge empire down into more than a thousand small units, many with fewer than 250 employees. The biggest problem the survey teams face is that of interpreting the results of their findings.

That is because they find deeper and very significant meanings whenever they dig below the surface of employees' superficial complaints. Time after time they find that seeming lack of recognition is at the basis of complaints ranging all the way from too little room or equipment to unnecessary overtime and work fluctuations. A sincere pat on the ego is often worth much more in improving employee morale than increased salary or promotions. Dr. Alfred J. Marrow, who is president of a manufacturing company and also a professor of psychology, says management fails



most in lacking know-how of the psychological principles that make for co-operative effort. He says individuals must make an ego investment in their jobs, must have recognition.

He uses group meetings and the sharing of problems and decisions to give his people a definite feeling of achievement and of having power to decide matters relating to their work problems. Lectures, booklets, and memoranda do not change the actual performance of workers; a person learns only by doing. Dr. Marrow uses group meetings in which universal participation is subtly achieved, also the performance of psycho- or socio-dramas during which both workers and supervisors meet real problems in a spirit of play, and work out their own solutions. You will find more detail on this in *Business Week* for May 20, 1950, which is available from libraries, including our own. Dr. Marrow firmly believes a worker needs recognition as much as he needs food.

## Weedless Nation?

IS THE WEEDLESS Nation on the way? Speaking recently at Ames, Iowa, L. M. Stahler, an agronomist in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, said that, in 1949, 16 Mississippi Valley States from Texas northward, and the Canadian provinces, treated over 25 million acres with 2,4-D alone. Cultivated crops were being grown on 90 percent of this area at the time. This was a 100-percent increase over the 12 million acres so treated in 1948 and, in 1949, 3 million acres were treated by airplane—some pilots treating as much as 1,800 acres of wheat in a day. Modern methods also enable a single operator to treat 160 acres with ground equipment.

Already some of the most troublesome regional weed species seem on the way out, wild mustard and cocklebur in the northern Great Plains area, for instance. In the humid regions field bindweed, Canadian thistle, and perennial sow thistle are vanishing rapidly. But still greater efforts are being made constantly to improve 2,4-D and other chemical herbicides through Federal-State trials. This all means lower production costs, less work with the hoe and the cultivator, and a manifest saving of profanity. Mr. Stahler recommends that the newer low-volatility esters of 2,4-D be used exclusively for roadside spraying of woody and herbaceous weeds, or on lawns, where proximity of sensitive crops is a hazard if the older formulations are used.

USDA: June 19, 1950

## Brief but important

### Cotton standards

The Ninth Universal Cotton Standards International Conference was held in Washington, D. C., early in May. The first since 1946, it was attended by delegates from 10 European and Asiatic trade organizations and over 30 American organizations. For a brief digest of its recommendations write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1171.

### Graduate School board

Assistant Secretary Knox T. Hutchinson has replaced former Under Secretary Albert J. Loveland as a member of the General Administration Board, USDA Graduate School, of which T. Roy Reid is Chairman. The other members are Hugh H. Bennett, Philip V. Cardon, Ivy W. Duggan, C. O. Henderson, Lyle F. Watts, Oris V. Wells, Claude R. Wickard, and M. L. Wilson.

### Artificial breeding associations

Nearly 3 million dairy cows are enrolled in artificial breeding associations now and probably 1 cow in 9 will be bred artificially during 1950. So reports Dr. J. F. Kendrick, Bureau of Dairy Industry. Artificial breeding associations now operate in 47 States and Alaska and increasing numbers of herds get the service of outstanding sires. Growth has been remarkable since 1939, when only 7,539 cows were enrolled in 7 associations.

### Dr. Herman Busman

Dr. Busman, retired employee of Bureau of Animal Industry, who lived in Holland, Mich., after retirement, died April 29 in Florida where he had spent the past 2 winters. A native of Michigan, he had 41 years of service, entering as an assistant inspector on February 23, 1898, approximately 34 of which were in the Meat Inspection Division and 7 in the Tuberculosis Eradication Division. He served in Chicago, Sioux Falls, Denver, Omaha, and Indianapolis, and retired in 1939.

### Boswell's article best

The article on "Our Vegetable Travelers" by Dr. Victor Boswell of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, which appeared in the *National Geographic Magazine* for August 1949, brought unsolicited letters from all over the world. Besides, many institutions of learning sought copies of it for educational and reference purposes. Illustrated with 32 color plates by Mrs. Else Bostelmann, it was mentioned and recommended in *USDA*, which finally summarized part of it in the issue for October 10, 1949. The editors of *National Geographic Magazine* said it proved to be the most popular article with readers for the year, by a wide margin.

### Jump Award

We learn belatedly that the W. A. Jump Memorial Award for exemplary achievement and leadership in public administration by an employee of the Federal Government, and which is a tribute to our own late finance director, was presented to Philip Caldwell, Department of the Navy, on May 25. A native of Ohio with degrees from Muskingum College and Harvard, Mr. Caldwell has since 1948 been deputy director of the Office of Naval Material. Earlier he had been senior clearance analyst 1946-47, advanced base ordnance staff officer with the Pacific Fleet 1944-45, and assistant to the war plans officer, Bureau of Ordnance, 1942-43. *Should any of you want the 30-page press release giving the names and biographies of all Honor Award winners of May 25, write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1211.*

### Caution, caution!

Apply fertilizer to gladioli with caution for, according to USDA's Drs. W. D. McClellan and N. W. Stuart, if well-fertilized, particularly if heavy doses of nitrogen are involved, the plant becomes more susceptible to leaf spot and bulb rot diseases than if not fertilized. For more details on this write T. Swann Harding and request No. 1254.

### Tropical dairy handbook

"Manual de Lecheria Para la America Tropical" is the name of a new 370-page tropical dairy handbook in which Drs. R. E. Hodgson and O. E. Reed of the Bureau of Dairy Industry collaborated, the former having spent about a year of study in a group of tropical American countries at their invitation. The Department of State made the translation into Spanish and it is also being rendered into Portuguese. It is publication No. KC-280, of the U. S. Interdepartmental Committee on Scientific and Cultural Cooperation, Washington, D. C., and may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at \$1 a copy.

### Soil fumigation for cotton pests

John T. Presley of USDA, working in cooperation with the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station on soils severely infested with fusarium wilt and root-knot nematodes, has found that soil fumigation with 20 gallons of ethylene dibromide per acre increased seed cotton yields almost tenfold. Average yield on treated plots was 2,000 pounds per acre as compared with a 210-pound average on check plots. The following year the treated plots averaged 795 pounds per acre, without additional fumigation and in spite of 50-percent boll weevil damage to the crop in the area. Check plots produced 238 pounds the second year. Estimated cost of the treatment runs about \$50 an acre for an over-all application and less than \$30 where only the rows are treated with the fumigant.

### Swine research

The project on breeding and marketing meat-type hogs carried on by the Bureau of Animal Industry to produce lean meat-type fast-growing swine, is closely integrated with the State agricultural experiment stations. In addition to foundation lines at Beltsville, Md., others have been established now as follows: Landrace-Chester Whites in West Virginia, Landrace-Poland China and Landrace-Large Black in Virginia, Landrace-Poland China in Oklahoma and in South Carolina, Landrace-Duroc-Hampshire in North Carolina, and Yorkshire-Duroc-Landrace-Hampshire in Georgia. Fourteen State agricultural experiment stations also cooperate with BAI's Regional Swine Breeding Laboratory with headquarters at Ames, Iowa. Closely integrated research of this kind pays big dividends.

### "Financing the Farm Business"

This truly excellent book by Governor I. W. Duggan of the Farm Credit Administration and Ralph U. Battles, assistant chief of FCA's Economic and Credit Research Division, has now appeared from the press of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York City 16, at \$4 a copy. It deals clearly and concisely with the principles of farm financing and sources of agricultural credit, and contains about the best exposition so far of the FCA banking system, a financial organization so large and so efficiently managed that it rates and compares most favorably with the greatest banking institutions of the Nation. Farmers Home Administration and Rural Electrification Administration each get a separate chapter. Each chapter ends with questions for review and the work should prove tremendously useful either as a trade book, a source book for farmers, or an educational text. The authors are to be congratulated on getting so much clearly put information into one small volume.



## Dairying in Czechoslovakia

The Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations has a new circular of this title for free distribution—5922S or Ext. 2445, or write. While the dairy industry made gains resulting from an improved feed situation in 1949, milk production is still below prewar, housewives still queue up for the milk ration, ordinary consumers got but one-eighth of a quart in 1949, standardized to low fat content, and cream is a rare luxury.

## Extension editors here

The Extension Editor Advisory Committee met May 8-12 with the staff of Extension Service and other USDA agencies and formulated its report on the theme Interpreting Research Results to People. Earl C. Richardson of Michigan was chairman and Louis J. Franke of Texas, secretary; the other committee members were Leighton G. Watson of West Virginia, Hadley Read of Illinois, Clarence Day of Maine, Jean W. Scheel of Oregon, Marjorie Arbour of Louisiana, and Joe McClelland of Arizona.

## Subtilin KO's botulinus

The microscopic plant botulinus (*Clostridium botulinum*) is potentially the most lethal food-poisoning organism. But Drs. A. A. Anderson and H. D. Michener of our Western Regional Research Laboratory have found that subtilin, a bacterially produced microbe killer, destroys the spores or seed of botulinus, and when tiny amounts of it are added to canned foods they can be sterilized effectively at 212° F. in 5 to 10 minutes without pressure-cooking equipment. This new method should help canners cut processing costs and also improve the flavor and texture of many canned foods. For more details on this write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and request No. 1216.

## Experiment station editors in

The Office of Experiment Stations annually invites several State agricultural experiment station directors to send their editors to Washington for a week to give them a first-hand look at research carried on here, much of which is cooperative with the stations, and to permit them to advise OES administrators and Agricultural Research Administration information personnel. Those attending May 8-12 this year were Carl Hancock of Arkansas, J. Francis Cooper of Florida, Fred Berggren of Indiana, J. G. Duncan of Michigan, Glenn Rutledge of Mississippi, Ovid Bay of Missouri, Sam Reck of New Jersey, John Burnham of North Dakota, George Church of Oklahoma, Donald E. Wells of Rhode Island, S. C. Stribling and Henry M. Simons of South Carolina, John Spaven of Vermont, and A. J. Simms and Walter Dudley of Tennessee.

## From PISAE

Tremendous interest in United States soil survey techniques was noted by Dr. Roy Simonson of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, when he served as chairman of the committee on soil surveys at a recent meeting of soil scientists in Puerto Rico. An effective treatment for magnesium deficiency, a serious problem in orchard soils in many parts of the country, is reported by Drs. Matthew Drosdoff and Felix S. Lagasse from their studies of tung nutrition at Gainesville, Fla. Jenkin W. Jones, in charge of rice investigations for PISAE, has returned from a 10-week air trip to Asia, where he visited several countries as agricultural advisor to the Southeast and South Asia Food and Trade Mission. Dr. Franz Petrak, mycologist of the Natural History Museum in Vienna, is spending a year in the Division of Mycology and Disease Survey, PISAE.

## Junior Management Intern Program

The Civil Service Commission has announced its second Junior Management Intern Program to begin September 5, 1950, and continue until January 26, 1951. This program is entirely separate from the Administrative Intern Program and only candidates in GS-7 and below will be considered. For details as to requirements for nomination procure Personnel Memorandum P-790 dated May 9, 1950, or call Dan M. Braum, Office of Personnel, Ext. 3185.

## Rock crusher

Our attention is called to an item in the column "Pepper & Salt," Wall Street Journal, April 28, which refers to a machine invented by Alfred Stauffer of Pennsylvania to pick up rocks in the field and beat the daylight out of them with a set of armor plates revolving 500 times per minute. This is a new idea of adding inorganic matter to the soil. It reminds us of those fancy new garbage annihilators they put in the kitchen sink.

## Vickery and Jones honored

Dr. Hubert B. Vickery, head of the biochemistry department, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and Dr. Donald F. Jones, head of its genetics department, have been elected president of the American Biological Society and chairman of the botanical division, National Academy of Sciences, respectively. The former is well known for his work on proteins, amino acids, and plant metabolism; the latter developed the double-cross method which made hybrid corn a commercial possibility.

## Western land and water

Mont H. Saunderson, a Forest Service economist with headquarters in Denver, is the author of "Western Land and Water Use," published by the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla., at \$3.75 a copy. With a background of intimate first-hand knowledge and long study he discusses therein the importance of western resources in the national economy, forestry, livestock grazing, reclamation, flood-control, river-basin development and its alternatives, and the national aspects of western land policy. As the publisher says, the book "strikes at the very heart of the land-management and water-resources problems" of the West.

## Water suckers

Certain brush plants and the Coulter pine on the lower slopes of California mountains have long mystified man with their ability to survive long dry summers when the soil moisture is at or below the wilting point. Scientists of Forest Service and the California Institute of Technology think they have the answer—negative transpiration. Plants generally transpire, thus losing water to the surrounding air. But experimentation with Coulter pine seedlings has shown that they can absorb moisture from surrounding humid air, thus reversing normal water loss. This may not be the full explanation of their ability to survive drought, but it is an important factor.

## Training retailers

To date more than 17,000 retailers have completed the 1-day training course in merchandising fresh fruits and vegetables in classes conducted by the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association under contract with USDA. The Association handles this work through its United Merchandising Institute and carefully trained instructors teach the fundamentals of successful fruit and vegetable department operation, while students learn by doing in a classroom equipped like a retail-store produce department. For more details on this get "Retailer Training in the Merchandising of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables," from Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, 2608S, Ext. 5223—or you may write in there.

## Cattle insect control

Two new EPQ leaflets, No. 270 on "Horn Flies, Enemies of Cattle," and No. 283 on "Fly Control on Dairy Cattle and in Dairy Barns," might help those of you interested in the newest methods of controlling insects on beef and dairy cattle. Procure directly from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

## Price programs

Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 13, dated April 1950, is entitled "Price Programs of the United States Department of Agriculture." It was compiled by Harry W. Henderson, Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, is 65 pages long, and winds up with a brief discussion of the CCC and PMA.

## Morales retired

L. E. Morales, chief clerk of the Cooperative Research and Service Division, Farm Credit Administration, retired May 31 after more than 43 years of service beginning in the National Bureau of Standards in 1906, and coming to USDA in 1917. Starting in the Office of Markets and Rural Organization he continued in the same line of work regardless of organizational changes after the Division of Cooperative Marketing was established in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in response to the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926. He went to Farm Board with the work in 1929 and thus wound up in FCA in 1933, returning to USDA with it in 1939.

## New cotton-cleaning device

Considerably increased trash in seed cotton results from mechanical harvesting and has complicated the ginning process. The Batelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, acting as contractor for USDA under authority of the Research and Marketing Act, has developed a new device and process for removing trash and other foreign matter from seed cotton. Dr. David G. Black of the Institute staff, who invented the device, has assigned his patent rights to USDA. The U. S. Cotton Ginning Laboratory, Stoneville, Miss., will seek to put the principles involved to practical use. A glossy print with drawings showing the operation of the device may be obtained from Press Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Training without yawns

Frankly books on and discussions about personnel training techniques normally put us to sleep. But "Tested Training Techniques" does not. A small volume of 111 pages just issued from Prentice-Hall Inc., New York City at \$2 a copy (Library also has it) is by Kenneth B. Haas and Claude E. Ewing, with piquant and charming illustrations by Robert L. Deschamps. Expecting to take a nap, the editor found himself admiring the drawings, then, miraculously enough, reading the book. Light, colloquial, and with no slightest trace of the highly specialized and esoteric language personnel officers customarily speak and write, the book recommends itself. Get it and dip into it by all means! See page 24 and find out all about "the professional krej."

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 5, 1950

## French agriculturist

WHEN IN PARIS recently Director M. L. Wilson of Extension Service was presented with a modern edition of a remarkable book by Olivier de Serres, the father of French agriculture, first published in 1600 and entitled "Le Théâtre d'Agriculture et Mesnage des Champs." The edition has a foreword by Marshal Pétain, dated March 18, 1941, at Vichy, in which de Serres is said to have brought together here all the basic principles that should guide the good farmer. On reading the work Arthur P. Chew, of the Office of Information, was astounded at the prescience and wisdom of the old author, born as he was in 1538, who casually recommends many ideas we consider quite modern, such as cereal and legume rotations and the enrichment of the soil by the latter. His encyclopedic book had great success, 19 editions having appeared between 1600 and 1675; its strange destiny was to be forgotten often but to reappear many times and regain its influence. The present edition from Firmin-Didot et Cie., 56 Rue Jacob, Paris, is in modern French and easy to read. The following paragraphs, in free translation by Mr. Chew, give some faint idea of the flavor and value of the author's writing:

Some persons scoff at books on agriculture, and refer us to unlettered peasants. Only the latter, they say, can be competent judges in this matter since the peasants lean upon experience, the only sure guide to the proper cultivation of the fields. Up to a certain point I agree. To discuss the proper management of a farm with only books as a guide, and without knowing local usages, is to build in the air and lose oneself in vain and useless fantasies. In fact one can learn much from expert farmers. But will the persons who refer me to practical farmers exclusively answer a question? Among the most experienced farmers there are diverse opinions as to what is good farm practice. Which would be the easier and quicker job—to sound the brains of all the peasants and reconcile their different and conflicting views or to read in a book the reason connected with a particular practice and learn how to apply the reason with judgment to a particular task? Science and usage together give the reason. In fact, does not this same reason, to the extent that he knows it, serve as book to the peasant? \* \* \*

It appears that the science of agriculture is as the soul of its experience. It cannot be idle, if it expects to be recognized as truly science; for what would be the good of writing and reading books on agriculture without putting them into practice? Science without practice achieves nothing and practice cannot be assured without science. As usage (or practice) is the object of every laudable enterprise, so science is the way to the true usage or practice—the rule and guide of proper doing. This is the union of science with experience. And for full measure I would add diligence, in order that our farmer may not expect to become rich just by talking or to feather his nest with his arms folded. We want wheat in the granary rather than on the wall in a painting. No good without trouble. It is an immortal rule, declared by Columelle and verified in its effects, that in order to have

## Our tillage lab

THE U. S. Tillage Machinery Laboratory, at Auburn, Ala., is absolutely unique. Its studies provide data for the design and operation of all machines manipulating the soil, and there is no other place like it in the wide world. It has 7 bins, 20 by 250 feet, each containing a 2-foot layer of a typical southern soil. Its special equipment enables its scientists to duplicate all physical factors of the soils for subsequent tests and its carefully calibrated special power equipment records tool reactions. Its work comes under Assistant Chief Arthur W. Turner, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, and Dr. E. G. McKibben is its new engineer in charge of tillage investigations and related problems.

A graduate of Iowa State who did advanced work at University of California, Dr. McKibben became associate professor of agricultural engineering at his alma mater, at Ames, while earning his Ph. D.; then head of Michigan State's agricultural engineering department, and of the similar department at the Pineapple Research Institute in Honolulu, from which position he comes to Auburn. An international authority on tillage mechanics he has served as consultant both with USDA and the armed services, has contributed voluminously to the literature in his field, and received the Cyrus Hall McCormick gold medal in 1949 for exceptional and meritorious agricultural engineering achievement. I. F. Reed, who has been head engineer at the Laboratory for some years, now takes direct charge of work on soil-crop equipment.

## Research short cut

SCIENTISTS are meticulous men—when painstaking care makes results more dependable, but at times quick techniques that may seem inexact are used when they make sense and enable men to do more with what funds and materials they have. The USDA cites a good example of this sort of short-cutting in a report of plant pathologists studying ways of testing sorghums for disease resistance. The two scientists, M. F. Kernkamp and N. L. Lohman of the United States Sugar Plant Field Station, Meridian, Miss., needed to test large numbers of canes for disease resistance, ordinarily a time-consuming job.

To make the research dollars go farther and to make tests more accurate with greater numbers, they adopted a new method of inoculation to take the place of one of the old days—either giving individual plants a shot of inoculum with an ordinary hand hypodermic, or inserting contaminated toothpicks into holes punched in the stalks. Their new procedure is to put the hypodermic needle at the business end of a 3-gallon pressure sprayer (20–30 pounds) making a sort of machine-gun device with which two operators can go rattling down a row at the rate of 300 to 400 plants per hour. The two scientists made a special needle with side openings for use on the cane stalks. As a result, there are no delays from plugging with pith.

## NEW DATE FOR USDA

You may have noticed this issue of *USDA* is dated July 5 instead of July 3. *USDA* will come out every other Wednesday instead of every other Monday, as in the past. This change has been made in order to mail in envelopes instead of wrappers as we have been informed that *USDA* has been arriving in a mutilated condition.

## Dehydration of alfalfa

If this subject interests you, you may obtain a copy of Dr. Leonard G. Schoenleber's mimeographed report IS-101 entitled "Operation and Performance of Alfalfa Dehydrators in Central U. S." from Division of Information, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., or a digest of the report by writing Press Service, USDA, and asking for No. 1301.



a good farm enterprise we must join together Knowledge, Will, and Power.

What de Serres divined in the sixteenth century about rotations was unknown to most French agriculturists in the eighteenth. In "Le Théâtre d'Agriculture," de Serres argued against the use of fallow; he advised the use of luzernes and sainfoins immediately after cereals. This practice, customary today, works partly because the legumes draw their nourishment from a considerable depth, and partly because they fix nitrogen in the soil. But the great French Encyclopedie, the first volume of which came off the press in July 1751, contained no favorable discussion of rotations; nor did the original 17 succeeding volumes. (See Agriculture in the Encyclopedie, by David J. Brandenburg, Agricultural History, April 1950. Vol. 24, No. 2.)

## Vanishing bovine?

THE VANISHING HORSE has been the subject of much repining. Now USDA dairy specialists say that, in recent years, milk cows have tended to become concentrated in larger herds where milk production per animal rises rapidly under new improved breeding and feeding methods. But without dairy cows, or some kind of grass-eating livestock, farmers cannot make profitable use of pastures and forages so much needed for soil conservation purposes also. The most efficient animal for the conversion of materials inedible by man into extremely high-quality human food is the dairy cow.

Furthermore the farmer with a small herd has opportunities today he did not have formerly, if he will but look around. Not only are research workers constantly developing new practices to make dairying pay better, but it is easier now than ever for the small-herd owner to improve his herd. In the past such farmers had difficulty getting really good bulls. But the development of artificial insemination rapidly makes top sires available to more and more farmers whether they have 3 cows or 30. Larger herds are advantageous when it comes to highly efficient mass milk production, but small-herd owners also have their place in the scheme of things.

### Bovine manners

Cows are sedate, genteel animals, yet Extension Dairy Specialist Stanley N. Gaunt, University of Massachusetts, says it is perfectly polite for them to burp when they bloat. In fact practical dairymen encourage belching by feeding hay to their herds because it irritates and stimulates certain nerves that burp bossy. Failure to belch can be very serious for a bloated cow.

## Chew retired

ARTHUR P. CHEW has retired from the Office of Information after service since 1923 when Secretary Hency C. Wallace, father of Henry A., gave him an appointment. Not long before his death Mr. Wallace asked Mr. Chew to gather material for the Secretary's Annual Report, and to clear, compile, and edit it. Mr. Chew has performed this function ever since in an urbane, dignified, but readable style. He has also completed innumerable other assignments, producing a large number of special articles, pamphlets, bulletins, and other publications out of his encyclopedic knowledge of agriculture's technological, social, and economic aspects. The latest and probably the most widely known of these is "U. S. Agriculture in the World Food Situation," released March 1950 by the Department of State.

A native of England, Mr. Chew went to Canada when he was 17, and subsequently to the United States where he did newspaper work. He was on the staff of the Wall Street Journal at the time his first USDA appointment actually materialized. He has continued from time to time to publish articles in outside periodicals of distinction where the soundness and permanent value of his thinking are well recognized. He is also the author of a recent Harper book, *Plowshares into Swords*. He has traveled rather widely in western Europe, making almost a hobby of this, and has mastered French with what the French describe, somewhat to his discomfiture, as an American (not an English) accent.

### Rich Mother Earth

Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, a Harvard geologist and economist, and Howard R. Tolley, formerly of USDA and now of FAO, recently made addresses in which they expressed optimism on the ability of rich Mother Earth to support such increased human populations as she is likely to have. When agricultural technology attains high efficiency all over the world and all land capable of cultivation is producing food, our age will become one of real instead of merely potential abundance. Anyway world population should stabilize at about 4 billion by the twenty-first century. Wait around.

### Miss Feldkamp retires

Cora L. Feldkamp has retired from the bibliographical division of the Library after 39 years of service beginning with the organization of the library in our Old Office of Farm Management. A native of Michigan and a graduate of Michigan State, she first came to USDA, then was reference librarian at Michigan State 1920-23, returning the latter year to Office of Experiment Stations. She eventually had charge of a specialized collection of some 50,000 publications and her knowledge of science and foreign languages materially aided her in abstracting for the former Experiment Station Record. Her great reliability, accuracy, and excellent judgment were widely esteemed.

## NATIONAL FARM SAFETY WEEK

By Proclamation of the President, July 23-29 is National Farm Safety Week. This is an opportunity to reduce the great toll of lives, suffering, and expense caused by needless accidents. Promotion of farm and farm home accident prevention should be generally observed. The customary packet of materials prepared with the assistance of the National Safety Council has been widely distributed.

## Brief but important

### Applying windborne aerosols

A new publication by A. H. Yeomans gives "Directions for Applying Windborne Aerosols for Insect Control Out of Doors." Get it directly from the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; request ET-282.

### Rural electrification

If you saw the full-page advertisement in newspapers on May 21 regarding the Rural Electrification Administration's loan to the Central Electric Power Cooperative of South Carolina you might like to read Administrator Wickard's statement in reply; if so get No. 1268 from Press Service, USDA.

### Being a good egg

The best storage temperature for hatching eggs is 50° F., according to recent tests by our Bureau of Animal Industry scientists. Temperatures of 30-40° are definitely harmful and 60-70° tend to reduce hatchability. The eggs may be held successfully at 50-55° F. for 7 to 21 days. These studies are designed to provide practical information for the hatching industry to combat one of its major problems—the fact that only about 70 out of every 100 eggs placed in commercial incubators actually hatch.

### British ag education

It is estimated that there are about 24,000 new entrants into farming in Britain annually of whom about 13 percent have taken agricultural courses at universities, agricultural colleges, or farm institutes. University courses offer degrees in agriculture in 3 or 4 years; Britain's four agricultural colleges offer 2-year, and the institutes 1-year courses, the aim being to have at least one institute in each county. Fees of the institutes are low; standards of instruction are high. There is in Britain a wide and varied provision of scholarships and financial assistance for agricultural students. Part-time education and evening classes in agriculture are also available.

### Tree growth rings

It is sometimes very difficult to make accurate counts of the growth rings in certain hardwoods. Forest Service workers recently gathered and closely examined 166 sweetgum cores and about 53 each of cottonwood, willow, the black gums, and the maples, after slicing them until translucent and using strong light. The test disclosed that 10-year radial growth of black gums had been overestimated above 10 percent, sweetgum 4 and maple 6 percent. No significant differences between field and office estimates were found for cottonwood and willow. The average field determination of 10-year radial growth was only 2 percent over the office determination and in woods like oak, with distinct rings, field estimates are highly accurate. Chief sources of error were failure to distinguish all rings and a tendency to be misled by false rings.



## "Featherbed Farming"

The above is the title of an article in the *Economist* (London) for May 13, which might be of considerable interest to many of us as giving some insight into British farming today.

## Houseflies and DDT

It has been known for some time that certain strains of the common housefly are resistant to DDT. A. S. Perry and W. M. Hoskins of the University of California, report in *Science* for June 2, that the ability to convert absorbed DDT into a related but non-toxic product is characteristic of these resistant flies. There's the making of fine chemists here!

## "Foreign Agriculture"

The June issue of the above-named magazine contains gross indices of agricultural production in the European Recovery Program countries, and articles on world cotton problems, land reform in Formosa, and the development of an Eastern European trading block under domination of the USSR. Get single copies from 5922S, Ext. 2445, or write in to Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

## Atomic energy and YOU

One of the best ways to inform yourself about atomic energy problems is to read the speeches the commissioners of AEC give every now and then, not via press excerpts, but entire. Another good address was delivered by Atomic Energy Commissioner Gordon Dean in late May. If you want a copy write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and request "Atomic Energy and the Citizen."

## FHA housing loans

The rapid growth of the new farm housing loan program and the insured farm-mortgage business, and continued demand for loans to improve farm-production practices were the main topics of a series of 3-day area meeting by State Directors of Farmers Home Administration, held country-wide May 15-27. Objectives of the 1951 program were discussed with Federal FHA officials and included all aspects of the supervised credit offered by the agency.

## Busy bumblebees

While honeybees do a good job of pollinizing alfalfa, bumblebees are even better. Their colonies are small, a handy-size family of 40 or 50, and they readily accustom themselves to experimental conditions. In fact our scientists working with those of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station have found out how to button—we mean zipper—a framework containing bumblebees and equipped with a plastic screen over small plots of alfalfa to hurry pollinization and get more seed from their experimental lines. The bees waste little time flying against the screen, curb their natural pugnacity, and work assiduously.

## Herbert S. Barber

Herbert Spencer Barber, authority on beetles and weevils for Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine since 1908, died suddenly in Washington, D. C., June 1. Born in Yankton, S. Dak., he was educated in the public schools of Orlando, Fla., and in Central High School, Washington, D. C. His childhood interest in insects caused him to consult the famous coleopterist, Dr. E. A. Schwarz, of the National Museum. From this childhood passion developed an internationally known scientist's career, even in lack of formal educational training in entomology. Mr. Barber traveled widely, was a skilled photographer, an expert rifle and sidearm marksman, and a specialist on woodland trails and waterways in the vicinity of the Capital City. He was also a notable lover of children and of the great outdoors.

## Statistics

The Statistical Laboratory, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, has available reprints of the address by Prof. George W. Snedecor on "The Statistical Part of Scientific Method," which he delivered in New York in January.

## Agricultural wages in World War II

"Agricultural Wage Stabilization in World War II" is the title of Agricultural Monograph No. 1 from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This first in a new series of publications previously processed as War Records Monographs, Nos. 1 to 7, is by Arthur J. Holmaas.

## Fish in Latin America

A new Research and Marketing Act project, sponsored by USDA's Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, is an investigation of current and potential Latin American markets for our fishery products, canned fish in particular.

## You chemists, et al.

John J. O'Neill, science writer for the New York Herald Tribune, had an article on chromatography in the issue for May 28 which attributed the striking success of this rather eerie method of analysis to the fact that chemicals develop memory! This new-old technique was devised originally by a Russian botanist in 1906.

## Research at Southern

A research project to help farmers improve their methods of marketing cotton and truck crops has been approved for Southern University, Baton Rouge, La., to be financed under the Research and Marketing Act. Southern is the second Negro institution to be assigned an RMA project. For details write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1312.

## Correction

The last line in the article on "Trichinosis" in the May 22 issue of *USDA* needs amplification. Bureau of Animal Industry's Benjamin Schwartz reminds us that even inspected pork needs to be cooked before eating. Only products that are customarily eaten *without cooking*, such as frankfurters, Italian-style ham, capocollo, and summer sausage, are especially processed under Federal meat inspection to destroy trichinae and are safe for consumption without cooking by the consumer.

## Group discussion

*USDA* for January 16, mentioned with approval a processed bulletin on group discussion by Prof. D. M. Hall, of agricultural extension, University of Illinois, and you flooded him with requests for it. We are glad now to announce that the material is available in printed form from The Interstate, 19-27 N. Jackson St., Danville, Ill., 75 cents for single and 50 each for 2 or more copies. This is a handbook for discussion leaders and we highly recommend Hall's "Dynamics of Group Discussion."

## Power to the rescue

In planting seasons of bad weather, power equipment, which can cover more acres per hour and be used longer hours than horse equipment, often enables farmers to plant successfully when they otherwise could not. With tractor power and equipment 3 acres of land can be prepared and planted to corn in the time it takes for 1 acre with work animals and, if the tractor is put on a 24-hour schedule, the preparation and planting job can be done 7 times as fast as with animal power. Power thus enables the farmer to regain time lost because of bad weather.

## Alayam Snacks

*USDA* for June 5 mentioned the new sweetpotato candy called "Alayam," made from sweetpotato puree, finely ground coconut, and sugar. It is one of several new food products produced from sweetpotatoes in a Marketing and Research Act study being carried on by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The over-all purpose is to increase the use of sweetpotatoes, consumption of which has declined from 26 pounds per person in 1909 to only 14 in 1949. Consumers appear to like Alayam.

## Ox-eye yields insecticide

A potent new insecticidal chemical, appreciably more toxic to houseflies than pyrethrum, has been isolated from a common native perennial weed of the genus *Heliopsis*, commonly known as ox-eye and related to the sunflowers. The chemical, an amide called scabrin, occurs strongly in the roots of *Heliopsis scabra*, and other varieties show insecticidal activity. The insecticidal properties of pyrethrum are in the flowers and considerable hand labor is involved in processing, but a root crop might lend itself to mechanical tillage and harvesting, and American farmers might produce it profitably if it could compete favorably with pyrethrum. Further study is under way in Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine where Martin Jacobson made the original finding on a Research and Marketing Act project.

## Rich food—few offspring

Quite a while ago certain nutrition experiments began to indicate that poor feeding in youth fostered longevity. This was true of certain insects, fish, and even animals, and some proof could be adduced that human beings poorly fed as children lived longer than their well-fed fellows. Long ago Herbert Spencer suggested that good food made human beings less fertile. Now the famous University of Chicago physiologist, Dr. Anton J. Carlson (emeritus for some years) and his colleagues have produced evidence that rats fed poor diets have more offspring than those fed more richly. Rats fed a rich diet did not produce enough young after three generations to maintain their numbers. Those fed the poorer diet might have trouble raising their litters but their colonies increased in size. The rich rat diet was a third protein, three-tenths fat, and no roughage; the poor diet was four-fifths wheat flour, with very little protein, and some bone-meal. Maybe we are on the track of why wealthier persons have fewer children than the poor!

## Bees and flowers

According to Dr. Verne Grant of the Carnegie Institution's biology division at Stanford, flowers did not appear on the earth until 150 million years ago and bees trailed along about 90 million years later. Before that the beetles had to pollinate the flowers as they still do modern descendants of the original flowering plants, the magnolias and their relatives. The bees proved more efficient pollinators than the beetles; they also tended to stick to plants of one variety. Flowers that attract bees best are usually some shade of blue or yellow or a mixture of these two colors, for bees are unable to see red as human beings do so easily more ways than one. To accommodate the bee Dr. Grant thinks the plants developed tubular flowers, reduced the number of stamens, and concealed the nectar at the base, where the long-tongued bee, but not the beetles could get at it. All evolutionary changes that tended to attract the bee also tended to be perpetuated in a new flower species. Since the bee habitually landed on the flower to sip nectar or gather pollen, some of the flowers obligingly formed their lower petals into a long lip to serve as a landing platform.



## Television

"Science via Television" is the title of a new little book by Lynn Poole, director of public relations at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who teaches the university's first television course.

## Fungicides

The USDA Plant Disease Reporter for May 15, issued by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, contains a summary of cooperative tests on 215 fungicides, prepared for professionals only.

## Jap beetle milky disease

"The Effect of Milky Disease on Japanese Beetle Populations Over a Ten-Year Period" is the title of new processed publication E-801, by R. T. White and P. J. McCabe of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, from which agency it may be procured.

## Wind-erosion situation

If you are interested in the present and potential wind-erosion situation in the Great Plains, as of June 6, write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, for a digest of a report made to the Secretary by USDA agencies with field personnel in this area; ask for No. 1357.

## In Britain—

They are talking about the helicopter rotors used to protect orchards from frost—a propeller mounted on a 30-foot pylon and activated by a tractor engine, and a new tractor designed to run on low-grade (zero-octane) fuel oil. For more dope contact British Information Services in Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, or New York.

## History of horticulture

Ulysses Prentiss Hedrick of Geneva, N. Y., a retiree from the staff of the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, has now produced a very readable and informative "History of Horticulture in America to 1860," to add to his shelf of 15 earlier works. Issued by the Oxford University Press, Inc., at \$7.50 a volume, it is also available from our Library.

## Seed program

We have a 1-page mimeographed account of the National Foundation Seed Program, of which C. S. Garrison is in charge. It was prepared by USDA's Radio and Television Service for distribution to radio farm directors but, as it may be of interest to many of you, we requested a supply. For a copy write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA.

## Arceneaux promoted

Dr. George Arceneaux, sugarcane agronomist of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering stationed at Houma, La., since 1928, has been made leader of sugarcane and sugar sorghum projects for his Division of Sugar Plant Investigations. Dr. Ernest V. Abbott, engaged in sugarcane disease investigations at Houma since 1930 has succeeded him as superintendent there.

## Baled hay loader

They tell us that Montana has developed a baled hay loader of simple design that will enable a driver and one man to load a truck more rapidly than four men otherwise could; plans for it may be obtained from Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, Bozeman, Mont., at 80 cents each. A better baled-hay stacker has also been developed, but plans are not available, though it can be seen at the Station in Bozeman.

## Kellogg to Europe

Dr. Charles E. Kellogg left June 24 for a trip that will take him to 7 European countries for consultations on soils research. He will also head the U. S. delegation to the Fourth International Congress of Soil Science meeting this month in Amsterdam. Chief of the Division of Soil Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, he has studied soil problems and made recommendations for research in many remote parts of the earth.

## Miss Bonslagel dies

Miss Connie J. Bonslagel, Arkansas State home demonstration agent, died May 21, ending a long career of service to rural people since 1911. She was in extension work the whole time except 1935-37, when she was with Resettlement Administration. She won a USDA Superior Service Award and also an award for distinguished service to southern agriculture from the Southern Agricultural Workers Association.

## Taming wild onions

It begins to look as if maelic hydrazide, a chemical new in weed research, may control the pesky wild onion. USDA's Vernon C. Harris has been testing it cooperatively with the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station. Before the method can be recommended and directions given for general use the minimum rate of spraying for effective control and the minimum lethal dose for animals must be determined.

## Improved gum turpentine

If you are interested in new methods to improve gum turpentine, we have a brief account of such work carried on by AIC engineers at the Naval Stores Station, Olustee, Fla. For a copy write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1366, or you can get PA-107, "New Methods Improve Turpentine," a publication, by writing Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry's information division in Washington, D. C.

## Whittier to England

Earle O. Whittier of Bureau of Dairy Industry will serve as dairy technology consultant for the U. S. at an international dairy conference, held July 10-22, at the National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading, England, under the auspices of FAO. The purpose of the conference is to promote a free and informal discussion on problems relating to the technology of handling milk and milk products in countries of western Europe.

## Too hot for you in Washington?

Well, John Adams didn't want the Federal Government established here anyway. In a letter to Benjamin Rush, dated November 14, 1812, from Quincy, Adams told how he opposed every effort to set up a permanent seat of Government until the geography of the country was better known and the center of population settled down. However, Robert Morris, "who was then thought to be infinitely rich, though I never believed him to be worth a groat if his debts had been paid," entered into "under hand Negotiations" and Washington, Jefferson, and L'Enfant put the deal over for a "permanent Seat at Potomack . . . (and) proceeded to plan the City, the Capitol and the Palace." Tom Paine accused Adams of liking this idea. Wrote Adams: "And I never had one Friend in the World to contradict the lying Rascal: tho' hundreds were able to do it, of their own Knowledge. It was a great Neglect and oversight to me, not to hire Puffers." (The last word probably means public relations counsel—we hope not information specialists.)

## "Waves of Green"

Look out for this film, produced by Dearborn Motors Corp., which pays tribute to our land-grant colleges.

## Know your butter grades

If you would like a detailed description of butter-grading, giving the standards for each grade, write Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, and request USDA Leaflet 264.

## "World Rice Bowl"

This is the title of the talk Director Stanley Andrews of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations gave before the Rice Millers Association at Houston on June 2. It covers the foreign and domestic situation. If interested, write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1324.

## Meat grades

Changes in meat grades have been proposed which would combine present Prime and Choice into Prime and promote present Choice to Good. Beef from young animals now included in Commercial would also rate Good with the remainder of Commercial still rating Commercial. If you are interested in more details about this, contact Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA. Standards for steer, heifer, and cow beef only are involved.

## "History of Sugar"

Volume 2 of the massive work by the above title, of which Englishman Noel Deerr is the author and Chapman & Hall, London, the publisher, is reviewed in a current issue of the magazine Sugar by Dr. Elmer W. Brandes of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, who describe Deerr as "the dean of sugar technologists." The review gives a foretaste of the book filled with facts from five centuries and flavored with accounts of discovery, colonization, and the rise of the slave trade. Hunt it up and read it.

## Grass for Michigan

The Michigan State USDA Council, headed by State Director Roswell Carr of Farmers Home Administration, is sponsoring increased use of grass and legumes for soil conservation and better farming practices. Forty representatives of State and Federal agencies from all over Michigan got together recently to propose that the Council back the movement on a State-wide, year-round basis, to which the Council agreed. B. D. Kuhn, agricultural program leader for Extension Service, heads a committee representing six agricultural agencies which is planning Grass Day celebrations all over the State. The Governor has declared 1950 Better Pastures Year. County USDA Councils are carrying on active educational campaigns and all FHA county offices in the State are aiding borrowers to include better grass and pasture plans in their operations.

July 5, 1950

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR JULY 19, 1950

## A new streptomycin

A FEW YEARS ago Dr. Allan K. Smith of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory was assigned to go to China and Japan and study the making of soy sauce and edible soybean products. Naturally he was loaded down with secondary assignments of all sorts too and, as a result of one of these, he returned bearing a number of soil samples. From one of these, a Japanese soil, the laboratory's research workers isolated a new species of the organism that produces streptomycin. Since this antibiotic has certain shortcomings, it was thought wise to find out what sort of streptomycin the new organism, named *Streptomyces griseo-carneus*, produced. It was found on test to differ from ordinary streptomycin and, when isolated in pure form, its molecules contained more oxygen. By other complicated investigations it was proved to be hydroxystreptomycin.

Preliminary experiments in glass indicate that it is a powerful antibiotic. Pilot-plant test runs show that it would be practical to produce it in sufficient quantity for work with animals and clinical trials. Should it turn out to be nontoxic, and should the disagreeable side reactions that characterize the common form of streptomycin when used therapeutically also be absent, this new form may have a great future. It is possible that this chance find in a Japanese soil may ultimately prove to have more importance than anything else the traveling scientist brought back from the Orient, showing that we often discover more useful knowledge by accident than on purpose!

(The first technical account of this achievement appeared in *Chemical and Engineering News*, vol. 28, No. 24, June 12, 1950, page 2019.)

## "Farm Crop Sweets"

Under this heading Clementine Paddleford reported in the *New York Herald Tribune* for June 15 that the confectionery industry today uses about 3 billion pounds annually of materials that come from farms.

## Beltsville Honor Awards

THE DEPARTMENT'S Honor Award Ceremony was held at Sylvan Theatre in Washington, D. C., May 25, with the Vice President of the United States as principal speaker. The third Honor Award Ceremony for employees of the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., was conducted June 6, in front of the Center Administration Building, the principal address being delivered by Secretary Brannan. Mr. C. A. Logan, Superintendent of ARC, introduced Dr. P. V. Cardon, Agricultural Research Administrator, as chairman. Director of Personnel T. Roy Reid also spoke and M. J. McAuliffe, regional director, and T. D. Dunn, deputy director of the fourth United States Civil Service Region were in attendance.

Presentation of length-of-service awards, recognition of awards made outside USDA by professional societies, and superior-accomplishment pay increases and cash awards were made to members of their own bureaus by Chief B. T. Simms of BAI, Assistant Chief George W. Irving, Jr., of AIC, J. Dewey Long of the Agricultural Engineering Group, Assistant Chief J. M. Kemper of BDI, Chief Avery S. Hoyt of EPQ, Assistant Chief Ruth O'Brien of HNHE, Dr. Lawrence Zeleny of PMA, Chief Hugh Bennett of SCS, and C. A. Logan of the ARC Office of Operations.

## Hickman C. Murphy honored

Dr. Murphy, a USDA senior pathologist stationed at Iowa State College, who has done notable work on oat diseases and the breeding of resistant varieties of oats, was one of five to receive an Alumni Merit Award at Iowa State in June. He graduated from West Virginia University but took his advanced degrees at Iowa State and entered USDA in 1930. He discovered disease-resistant Victoria and Bond oat varieties, and was primarily responsible for the development of Tama, Boone, Control, Cedar, and other Victoria derivatives grown on 98 percent of Iowa's oat acreage and on 75 percent of that of the United States.

## Making techniques pay

WHEN A NEW farm production method is developed two questions arise: Is it feasible in practice? Will it pay a farmer to use it? Assume the new method is workable. Will it pay? One factor that makes a difference is whether the method saves cash or farm-family labor. If the latter, is there a profitable alternative for the labor saved? Again, the adoption of a new practice usually involves changes in the entire farm production pattern—new combinations of men, land, and machines must be developed. Will that be too cumbersome or expensive? Take as an example the mechanization of cotton in the Mississippi Delta.

If cotton is produced with one-row mule equipment, hand-chopping, and hand-picking about 155 man-hours per bale are required. If a tractor is introduced only to prepare the land, about 149 man-hours are needed; if it is used to prepare and cultivate the land, the figure becomes 132 man-hours. If the cotton is also picked mechanically the figure drops to 45 man-hours. If a fully mechanized operation could be carried out, cultivating with a rotary hoe and flame cultivator, and hand-chopping eliminated, it would require only about 10 man-hours per bale! Even if complete mechanization worked, would it be profitable under all conditions? That would depend, in part, on the size of the operation.

At least a hundred bales of cotton must be produced to make the use of a cotton-picker pay, or else the owner must do custom work with it to make up the difference. Adoption of the picker with retention of hand-chopping shifts the peak labor load from picking to chopping. The farm-production pattern may have to be changed almost entirely to permit increased mechanization. The influence of the size of the farm and of the operation is a primary factor in determining the profitability of using the new agricultural technology in every field. We need more farm-scale testing of research findings in this field to determine the most profitable combinations under varying farm conditions.

Technological improvements during the last 40 years have greatly increased the efficiency of farm production, but the increases have been much smaller in some crops than in others, and also in different livestock enterprises. The percentage increases in production per man-hour from 1910-12 to 1946-48 is as follows for different products: Food grains 224, feed grains 103, cotton 54,



milk 49, hay 30, meat animals 20, and tobacco only 7. Perhaps our research programs also need reexamination to determine the lines upon which we should concentrate so as to facilitate farm adjustments that will enable us best to produce our prospective needs for specific products.

(Drawn from remarks Dr. Sherman E. Johnson, assistant chief for production economics of BAE, made before the Secretary's staff conference.)

## 10-mile egg train

IT WOULD TAKE 7 trains each 10½ miles long and composed of 1,388 cars to hold the 2.1 billion eggs commercial hatcheries place in incubators annually to produce the chicks the United States requires. But only five trainloads of the eggs hatch; eggs in the sixth trainload are infertile and do not hatch, and those in the seventh start to hatch but never complete the job. The eggs in the last two categories have to be discarded and that is a heavy loss to the poultry industry. It is equivalent to 600 million wasted eggs. To reduce such losses USDA poultrymen are making intensive studies of egg hatchability.

They find that nutrition is an important factor promoting better hatchability, though some diets that produce good growth and egg production do not promote high hatchability. Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> has been shown to have very considerable importance here and synthesis of this vitamin should be of great value to the poultry industry. Other nutritional research points the way to more scientific feeding. Careful selection and storage of eggs also is important. Extra large, small, and misshapen eggs should not be used; neither should those with poor shells or blood spots. To hatch well, eggs should be stored around 50° F. Real cold is quite harmful and temperatures of 60° to 70° F. also reduce hatchability. Maybe we shall soon get those other two egg trains back on the track to proper hatching!

## Where's that sponge?

DON'T GET excited, doctor, it's inside the patient—but that's quite all right. In a few days it will turn to sugar and simply vanish; the patient will be none the worse off. But be sure to remove your scissors and the towel before you sew up the incision, as they are not composed of the starch sponge developed by USDA's Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria. There the scientists found that, when a 7-percent starch paste is slowly frozen at -12° to -18° C. and then thawed, the porous material

left retains the shape of the container and also some of the water in the original paste. This can be expressed by squeezing and a soft, wet, resilient spongelike substance remains that is capable of quickly absorbing 16 times its weight of water. When dried it can be ground to a fine powder.

The sponge can be used on a surgical gauze backing to make bandages capable of checking hemorrhage after surgery. Blocks of it can also be used as a hemostatic after abdominal operations. Removal of the sponge is unnecessary because body enzymes break it down soon into simple sugars which the body then absorbs and uses like food. Powdered starch sponge also has excellent hemostatic qualities. Widespread clinical trials have shown that this versatile starch sponge should have a future career of great usefulness. It should soon be in commercial production which might require more than a million pounds of starch annually. And if the doctor leaves such a sponge inside nobody need worry, least of all the patient.

## Never underestimate—

FOUR USDA employees, three men and a woman, were honored with Distinguished Service Awards this spring. Of these four the name of Lucy Maclay Alexander, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, seems to have led all the rest in the local press and national magazines. Pathfinder for May 31, under "The Lady Knows Meat," explained that Miss Alexander has cooked or supervised the cooking of what would add up to a mountain of meat—some 2,900 cuts of beef, 3,800 cuts of lamb, 1,700 cuts of pork, 900 turkeys, and 300 chickens. Poultry Tribune for June pointed out that Miss Alexander's research led to the modern method of cooking meats at temperatures best suited to each, and that during the past 2 years she has started a new line of research on cooked yields of meat and poultry which promises to serve as an aid in the market grading of these foods.

Forecast magazine featured Miss Alexander in its "About People" department, commenting that "her varied researches on meat and poultry cookery have influenced many a cookbook writer and many a cook." The June number of Country Gentleman said that visiting nutritionists and just plain cooks who have sampled Miss Alexander's cooking at the Agricultural Research Center agree that she turns out just about the best steak or turkey roast they ever tasted. Her own favorite is "hamburg steak with a

cream gravy of top milk, a little flour, bread crumbs, salt, and pepper."

The lady's fame has already reached the Scandinavian countries. A Swedish papers, published in Stockholm, pictures Miss A. taking a roast turkey out of the oven. "Miss Alexander," states the caption, "naringsexpert inom amerikanska jordbruksdepartementet." Skoll! We wouldn't doubt a word of it!

## Brief but important

### Ozaki here

Yikio Ozaki, distinguished Japanese statesman and nonagenarian, as well as donor of Washington, D. C.'s famous flowering cherry trees, has been visiting the city and the trees recently.

### Surplus stock distribution

If interested in the distribution of Commodity Credit Corporation surplus stocks under Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, through May 31, 1950, write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1394.

### Cigarettes heading up

Though United States consumption of cigarettes leveled off during the last half of 1949, the first quarter of 1950 ran 3 percent higher than the corresponding period of the previous year. Domestic consumption will probably run 355 billion for the fiscal year just ended, 3 billion higher than for 1948-49.

### Home economics theses

A new processed publication issued jointly by our Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and the Home Economics Service, Office of Education, Federal Security Agency, is entitled "Titles of Completed Theses in Home Economics and Related Fields in Colleges and Universities of the United States." Request PA-99 from either agency.

### "Composition of Foods"

This is a processed publication mainly composed of tables, by Bernice K. Watt and Annabel L. Merrill, and others on the staff of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. It supersedes Miscellaneous Publication 572 and covers the composition of raw, processed, and prepared foods. Procure as you do other printed publications; ask for Agriculture Handbook No. 8.

### "Wild Flowers at a Glance"

This is a new book by two English authors, M. C. Carey and Dorothy Fitchew, published by Pellegrini & Cudahy, 333 Sixth Avenue, New York City 14, at \$2.75 a copy. It treats white, greenish-white, green, greenish-yellow, yellow, blue, red, pink, and purple flowers in color groups, contains more than 260 illustrations in color, and should assist in the identification of plants growing in Britain, Canada, and the United States.

### Karl Knaus to Pakistan

Karl Knaus, veteran extension worker, has gone to Karachi to work with the Government of Pakistan in the development of that country's extension and rural welfare services, an assignment made at Pakistan's request to the Department of State. His work will come under Point 4. A native of Kansas with degrees from Kansas State, Mr. Knaus has had 35 years' experience as county agent, superintendent of an agricultural school, and since 1935, the representative of the Federal Extension Service on county agent work in the 12 Central States.



## At Northern Lab

As will become quickly evident in this and subsequent issues, the editor has recently visited the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, at Peoria, Ill., at the invitation of its genial and unassuming director, Dr. Reid T. Milner.

## St. Lawrence Waterway Project

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1259, June 12, announced appointment of the following committee to study the agricultural implications of the St. Lawrence Waterway Project: H. L. Cook, Sec., chairman; V. Webster Johnson, BAE, vice chairman and secretary; Roy W. Lenartson of PMA and Charles U. Samenow of REA.

## "What's Coming in Research"

This is the title of a speech given by Deputy Administrator Byron T. Shaw of our Agricultural Research Administration on June 13. If you want a quick survey of this subject emphasizing advances made by research performed in the USDA you could hardly do better than write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, for a copy of No. 1435.

## That potato book again

USDA's Dr. F. J. Stevenson has written a mighty favorable review of a book mentioned earlier in *USDA*, "The History and Social Influence of the Potato," by Redcliffe N. Salaman, late director of the Potato Virus Research Station, Cambridge, England. Now we know this book is good; hitherto we merely guessed. The review appears in the July Journal of Agronomy. The book is \$12.50 a copy.

## Riboflavin by fermentation

Sometime ago the Northern Regional Research Laboratory found that the yeastlike organism, *Ashbya gossypii*, could produce riboflavin. Laboratory and pilot-plant studies improved the process and a search for superior riboflavin-producing substrains of the organism finally pushed experimental yields up to from 800 to 1,760 micrograms per milliliter. This has now been demonstrated to be a practical commercial process.

## Carrots

Did you know that 389 different names have been applied to orange-fleshed carrot varieties or strains though, on a basis of their general or outstanding characteristics, these can be classified into 9 groups: French Forcing, Scarlet Horn, Oxheart, Chantenay, Danvers, Imperator, James' Intermediate, Long Orange, and Nantes? We produced 11 million bushels of carrots in 1929 and 24 million in 1949; we consumed at a rate of 6.7 pounds each in 1917 and of 12 pounds each in 1948.

## Micro-organism produces vitamin B<sub>12</sub>

A recent survey of 5,000 organisms in the famous culture collection at our Northern Regional Research Laboratory has turned up one that can synthesize the new vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, which is so important in chick nutrition and other respects. A similar survey of a thousand bacterial cultures also revealed a small number of promising strains. When a strain of *Flavobacterium devorans* was grown under ideal conditions on a medium composed of corn sugar, soybean meal, corn steep liquor, and mineral salts, it produced a significant quantity of vitamin B<sub>12</sub>. This Research and Marketing Act study is being pursued further in the hope of developing fermentation processes that will produce consistently good yields of the vitamin. Chick feeding tests are being used to evaluate products obtained.

## Soybean oil sludge

When tankcars containing 61,000 pounds of soybean oil are shipped from processor to refiner as much as 1,500 pounds of settlings or sludge may deposit in the bottom of the car. Settlement of more than 150 pounds brings a penalty. Refiners dislike this because they recover a lower net weight of oil and it is also difficult to clean the tank. Since the price of the oil is adjusted according to refining losses as measured on samples taken when the car is loaded, the relationship between refining loss and sludge has considerable economic and good-will importance. Preliminary tests at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory indicate, however, that the refining losses decrease as the sludge is deposited and that present penalties on both are unfair to buyers and sellers alike. Further investigation is being carried on.

## The corncob

The use of ground corncobs for cleaning purposes, pioneered by our Northern Regional Research Laboratory, still increases. Large manufacturing concerns find soft-grit blasting with the ground cobs ideal for finishing certain machine parts and for cleaning electrical generators and motors, machine tools, plate glass, painted surfaces, railway tankcars, the holds of seagoing tankers, and the exterior of brick and stone structures. Studies at the Laboratory also indicate that the pentosan content of cobs from hybrid corn is higher than that of those from open-pollinated varieties, running from 40 to 45 percent instead of 35 or less. The lignin content may be lower or higher. Results show the possibility of developing corncobs by genetic methods in which pentosans, lignin, or cellulose predominate, the first being highly important in furfural manufacture.

## Starch research

The industrial use of starch is on a traditional, rule-of-thumb basis. This is because the nature of starch itself and the physical and chemical properties of the different starches are as yet poorly understood. Fundamental studies of these problems are being made by scientists at our Northern Regional Research Laboratory. Slowly and patiently carried out, they seem ultimately destined to enable those who use starch to procure a more highly specialized product more closely tailored to their specific needs. Progress in the industrial use of starch is pretty well blocked until these fundamental studies disclose the basic nature, composition, and properties of the starches. The information so developed by pure research should prove useful in finding new outlets for starch and in explaining the essential differences between starches from various sources.

## Soybean oil flavor

The flavor of soybean oil presents many problems. The reason for the oil's flavor instability was long unknown. After the war it was found that the Germans deodorized soybean oil by adding citric acid on the theory that it removed traces of lecithin. Our scientists at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory discovered instead that it removed very, very small traces of iron, and 0.1 part per million of iron, or one-tenth that much copper, reduced flavor stability and accelerated the aging of the oil. The small quantity of linolenic acid soybean oil contains also contributes to its development of undesirable flavor. If the acid is added to cottonseed oil it can cause that to be mistaken for soybean oil. To produce high-quality soybean oil the iron must be removed early in processing, and improved flavor also results when the linolenic acid is extracted by the use of furfural.

## New Dairy Branch head

The new director of PMA's Dairy Branch is Preston Richards, who has been assistant director of the Livestock Branch which he entered in 1941, having joined the staff of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, in 1930, as a livestock specialist, after graduating from the Missouri College of Agriculture. Philip E. Nelson, who has headed the Dairy Branch since October 1948, has transferred to the Office of the PMA administrator.

## Paint on wood

Two of the oldest frame buildings in the United States have never been painted: One in Dedham, Mass., the other in St. Augustine, Fla., and surviving houses of the Amana Society in Iowa still have unpainted wood though more than 75 years old. Forest Service says painting is a good way to enhance the attractiveness of wood houses and to freshen or change their appearance. It prevents weathering of the wood but does not preserve it from decay except by keeping it dry. Wood rots are spread by fungi that require moisture to get in their best work. Weathered wood, ranging from dark gray to brown, has its own charm and some like it well enough to leave frame buildings unpainted.

## Oregon linens

Flax is grown domestically for fiber rather than for flaxseed only in Oregon and a few counties in Washington. The Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, in cooperation with the Oregon Flax and Linen Board, has been developing new designs and methods of weaving flax yarns into draperies, rugs, table linens, and upholstery materials that may lead to new uses for the Oregon crop. Among these are the interesting three-dimensional patterns now so popular for modern interiors, some fabrics being entirely of flax, others with mixed fibers. Oregon linen equals European linens in quality, though most of its flax fiber has so far been used merely to make string, twine, and rope. The newly developed fabrics should widen its use.

## REA at 15

On the fifteenth anniversary of Rural Electrification Administration on May 11, its borrowers had put into operation their one millionth mile of power line and they were serving 3.2 million rural consumers. During the 15 years of its existence REA has made 2.1 billion dollars of loans to 1,067 locally owned business groups, of which 977 are farmer-owned electric cooperatives. Loans in the total amount of \$685,000 have already been approved also to 5 commercial companies and 1 newly formed cooperative for the expansion and improvement of rural telephone facilities. "The Rural Electrification Administration in Perspective" is the title of an interesting historical article by H. S. Person in *Agricultural History* for April 1950, a quarterly edited in room 3906S, USDA.

## Seed-protecting dusts

Crop-plant disease control is not a simple seasonal sifting or spraying of sure-fire fungicides. USDA cereal pathologist R. W. Leukel says a disease-control chemical must meet many requirements other than mere effectiveness against specific plant diseases. There must be a safety margin, as plants and seeds vary in tolerance; it must have little adverse effect upon germination, stand, and yield; the material must not be too corrosive or it would injure expensive machinery; it must not be injurious to humans, or even very disagreeable, for that alone would restrict its use; it must spread well, be fine enough to adhere to the seed, but not get sticky; it must be of stable composition; and its final success depends on its cost. Yet more and more chemicals fulfill the requirements and come into use for the protection of seeds and seedlings.



## Franke to Frankfurt

Louis Franke, extension editor for Texas, has gone to Frankfurt, Germany, for 2 months where his fluent German will come in handy in setting up a practical method of getting farm research facts to German rural people. He is there on an ECA assignment.

## Noordhoff speeds research news

Lyman J. Noordhoff, assistant extension editor under Dean H. P. Rusk of Illinois, spent the month of June in the Office of Information to study methods of speeding agricultural research information more quickly throughout the Cooperative Extension Service in all States of the Union.

## Nichols, dean and director

Dr. Robert A. Nichols of the department of biology, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, became dean of agriculture and director of both extension and the experiment station July 1, succeeding Dr. H. R. Varney who recently became dean and director at University of West Virginia.

## Market news reporters meet

The first Nation-wide conference of our fruit and vegetable and dairy and poultry market news reporters took place recently in Chicago. C. D. Schoolcraft and M. W. Baker headed the meetings of the former and L. M. Davis and H. A. Rust of the latter—all from Production and Marketing Administration. This conference held May 27-29 served admirably to acquaint the reporters with the problems of, and the procedures used by, each other, and was extremely helpful.

## You might be interested in—

Veal calves as a good market for milk; if so ask for No. 1456. \* \* \* The new plastic wrap USDA plant specialist John L. Creech is using to speed the propagation of woody plants otherwise hard to propagate; ask for No. 1460. \* \* \* The theory being developed by several USDA scientists that the rootstock may be the key to the control of peach orchard nematodes; ask for No. 1455. *Write, please do not phone.* T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Pressure, not freezing

Bin-wall failures in winter are more often caused by lateral pressure of potatoes in storage—it can attain 92 pounds per square foot after 21 weeks' storage when the potatoes have a 15-foot depth—rather than by freezing. Research on this has been carried on at the new Red River Valley Potato Research Center, Grand Forks, Minn., by USDA, the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, and the agricultural experiment stations of North Dakota and Minnesota. This is a Research and Marketing Act Project.

## West's first animal science series

Dr. M. E. Ensminger, chairman of the animal husbandry department, Washington State College, is the author of a new book called "Animal Science." It is the first of a series of five publications, is 1,050 pages long—about three times as large as each of the four books to follow, and may be had from Interstate Printers and Publishers, Danville, Ill. This animal husbandry series will be the first by authors with a background and knowledge of the West, East, and South, as well as of the Corn Belt. The series will later include Beef Cattle Husbandry, Sheep and Goat Husbandry, Swine Husbandry, and Horse Husbandry.

## Prepackaged cranberries

"Prepackaging Cranberries Cooperatively" is the name of a new processed publication from Farm Credit Administration by Oscar R. LeBeau. *Procure from Director of Information and Extension, FCA, USDA; ask for Miscellaneous Report No. 138.*

## Rural youth to Europe

If you would like the names and addresses of the 42 rural young men and women who left Washington by air June 9 to spend the summer on farms in 14 European countries—as well as the countries each one is to visit—write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1404.

## Progress through agronomy

We have copies of the speech delivered by Chief Robert M. Salter, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, before the National Fertilizer Association on June 14. It points up the great opportunity for phenomenal agricultural progress by practical applications of the science of agronomy. If you want a copy of this informative and stimulating talk, "A Century of Progress in Agronomy," write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1373.

## Deysher retired

Edgar F. Deysher, a chemist in the Bureau of Dairy Industry, has retired. A native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Penn State, he entered the Bureau of the Mint in 1909, the Bureau of Internal Revenue 2 years later, and the Bureau of Animal Industry in 1914. His contributions have been analytical methods for milk fat and for sweetened condensed and evaporated milk, and to our knowledge of the composition of milks of various types and their alterations and keeping qualities under heat treatment and processing.

## CMC of ARA

To learn about CMC, the compound that makes cotton clothes harder to soil and easier to clean, a staff member of Pathfinder News Magazine recently visited the Institute of Textile Technology at Charlottesville, Va., where the new laundry treatment was developed. Result of her trip is a well-written account of how CMC, added to rinse water, "soaks into fibers and coats them with a smooth, soil-fighting film"—see Pathfinder, June 14. The CMC project is sponsored by the Agricultural Research Administration.

## USDA charts

"Charts and graphs ordinarily bore us stiff. But recently we have been studying some, published by the United States Department of Agriculture, on a half century of corn production in 11 States of the Corn Belt. And we've found that they reveal more than the mere factual record of so many millions of bushels. You can read between the lines of these charts, so to speak, and see some things that are as essentially human as the family next door. You can see in these lines, traced up and down across a graph, a record of struggle, of failure and triumph, of poverty and prosperity, of the challenge of war, the coming of agricultural knowledge to prairie settlers in sod huts, the migration of youth from farm to village, the advent of hybrids that boosted acre-yields and of farm machinery that eased back-breaking and heart-breaking labor on many a stubborn field. You can see, in a couple of pages of charts, the agricultural and social story of the productive heart of the continent in the first half of the twentieth century." This quotation is from Corn for May 1950 (vol. VI, No. 2) a publication of the Corn Products Refining Co.

## Greenhouse insect control

"Tetraethyl Dithiopyrophosphate in Aerosols for the Control of Greenhouse Insects" is a new EPQ publication by Floyd F. Smith and R. A. Fulton. *Procure from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine by asking for E-803.*

## Liberia flourishes

Largely as a result of farm demonstration work now being carried on in Liberia with the cooperation of the United States Economic Mission, that country is becoming self-sufficient in the production of its two important crops, rice and cassava. For more details get release No. 1379 from Press Service, USDA, or May "Foreign Agriculture" from Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

## Insurance for farmers

As a result of surveys it has made, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has some up-to-date information on mutual insurance companies for farmers, covering protection against windstorms and fire hazards. For details get in touch with the Division of Economic Information, BAE, USDA. Ask for June Agricultural Situation or the new Farmers' Bulletin, "Insurance for Farmers." The latter deals with all kinds of insurance which might prove of interest to farmers.

## Penicillin: big business

A large and yet expanding industry, the mass production of penicillin, is still based on the wartime investigations of the Northern Regional Research Laboratory at Peoria. It grew from nothing, a few years ago, to an average of about 11 trillion units per month in 1949. This tremendous growth was accompanied by a decline in wholesale price from \$20 to less than 10 cents for 100,000 units—commonly one shot, that is. Annual production amounts to somewhere between 75 and 90 tons of the drug. Twelve major companies contribute to this huge output. The effectiveness and availability of this antibiotic paved the way for the introduction of many more useful drugs of the same kind.

## Hilbert to Europe

Dr. G. E. Hilbert, chief of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, left recently for Europe, where he will attend the Eighth International Congress of Agricultural Industries, to be held July 9-15 in Brussels under sponsorship of the Belgian Government. Dr. Hilbert will present two papers at the Congress, one on "Three New Principles of Food Processing" and the other on "Alcohol from Agricultural Sources as a Potential Motor Fuel." He will read a third paper, prepared at the request of the Congress by Dr. S. I. Aronovsky of AIC's Northern Regional Research Laboratory, on "Manufacture of Cellulose Pulps from Straw." Dr. Hilbert also expects to try his hand at a bit of journalism on his trip abroad—he has been invited by the American Chemical Society to send back a ringside report of the Brussels meeting for its weekly magazine, Chemical and Engineering News.

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 2, 1950

## Dr. Louise Stanley

THE FIRST CHIEF of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Dr. Louise Stanley, has retired. She has served as special assistant to the head of the Agricultural Research Administration, coordinating research in home economics, since 1943, after 20 years as head of the then Bureau of Home Economics, which achieved national and world-wide repute under her competent leadership. Dr. Stanley is a native of Nashville, Tenn., and for 16 years conducted research and taught at the University of Missouri where she was chairman of the home economics department. She studied at Peabody College, University of Chicago, Columbia, and Yale, and holds five degrees. In 1940 she was honored as the first woman to receive an LL. D. from the University of Missouri and she was awarded a medal by the University of Chicago and honorary membership in Phi Beta Kappa in 1941.

In 1928 Dr. Stanley was appointed official representative of USDA on the American Standards Association, the first woman to hold such an appointment. She has represented the Administrator of ARA and the United States at many international conferences and her committee activities have been numerous and widespread. In 1947 she visited Brazil and Venezuela to make a nutritive survey for the American International Association for Economic and Social Development. This distinguished and internationally known nutrition and home management leader served 27 years with the USDA and leaves it for retirement with the very best wishes of all her colleagues.

## Wellman studies dried fruit markets

H. R. Wellman, marketing specialist and director of the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics, is in Europe making a first-hand study of European markets for dried fruit, principally raisins, prunes, and apricots, for the USDA.

## Chromotography

EARLY IN THIS century a Russian botanist, working on plant chlorophyll, found that he could separate plant pigments for study by passing solutions of them down tubes or jars filled with powdered materials of certain kinds. The method developed slowly but in recent years has become one of the most effective and time-saving of laboratory tools. It has also been found that solutions of the materials to be studied need not be run through tubes. The solutions will run up or run down ordinary filter paper, if one end of the paper be immersed in them and hung over the side of the container, or it is stood up in a flat container of the solution to be studied, supported by a glass holder. We saw the method in operation at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory.

Today it is possible with the greatest speed and accuracy to identify which of a large number of sugars or amino acids is present in a mixed solution. Thus complex carbohydrates or proteins may be broken down and their constituents not only identified but assayed quantitatively with considerable accuracy so quickly that it makes an old-fashioned chemist's head literally swim. Each sugar and each amino acid has a precise point on the paper which it will inevitably and unerringly reach. It crawls to that point in solution and once that spot is developed you know that substance only made it. Obviously chemicals have memories at least as good as those of dairy cows which go unerringly to their stanchions when led into the barn. The saving of time and tedious work by the use of such methods is enormous but, as always in science, they raise almost more problems than they solve, and suggest many new research projects to the workers using them.

## Maris retired

PAUL V. MARIS, who developed and directed the farm ownership loan program for Farmers Home Administration, has retired after 37 years of service. A native of Oregon he graduated in agriculture at University of Missouri and spent more than 20 years in agricultural extension work. In its early days FERA drafted him for service in Washington to develop a field organization and rehabilitation program; he remained with it when it went into Resettlement Administration. He was chosen to head FSA's farm ownership loan program when the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act became law in 1937, becoming a consultant to the administrator of FHA in March 1948.

In May 1948 Mr. Maris won a Superior Service Award. He has written widely on his specialties for periodicals and has also just completed a historical report of the farm ownership program that will be used in training field workers who arrange and supervise real estate loans. His pamphlet, *Shall I Be a Farmer?* aided thousands of World War II veterans with sound practical advice. More recently his *Planning That Pays* has helped innumerable farm families with down-to-earth guidance.

## Hudson wins prize

Dr. Claude S. Hudson who, since 1928, has directed the division of chemistry of the National Institute of Health but was for years in USDA, has been awarded a prize of \$10,000 by the Sugar Research Foundation for his work on carbohydrates and enzymes. He is a graduate of Princeton where he also took his advanced degrees, a native of Atlanta, and is now 69. Years ago the editor learned what little chemistry he ever knew by working with Hudson.

## SECRETARY ON MANAGEMENT

On June 12 Secretary Brannan made a very interesting and readable statement to the President's Advisory Committee on Management Improvement. He explained his management objectives, how he kept informed about the Department's operations, and how our management improvement program operates. He told the committee that USDA had 60,952 full-time employees in April, it supervises 137,000 cooperating workers, but its force of paid employees is 35 percent smaller than in 1939. He emphasized that the people of this Nation have no greater resource than the competent, loyal career employees of Government. There were many other facts about which you will want to inform yourself. Also available is a processed statement giving stimulating examples of management improvement in the various agencies. If you want this material write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for the management statements the Secretary gave the President's Committee—and you should want to get and read these.



## Model markets

A TALENT for making scale models is helping Production and Marketing Administration demonstrate the need for better wholesale market facilities. Catherine A. Perry of the Marketing and Facilities Research Branch builds realistic scale models of markets—complete to miniature trucks, railroad cars, fences, and trees. Her models make the markets appear to be at the peak of a busy day. She builds them in keeping with plans which have been carefully prepared and recommended by the Branch for cities and communities that have asked advice on their needs for a new market.

Before Mrs. Perry began her work, the marketing economists and engineers found it difficult to show the growers, dealers, and marketing officials what a proposed market would look like, and how it would help solve their food distribution problems. Like most of us, they had a hard time visualizing the market by simply looking at blueprints. But now when a new market is proposed to a city or community, a specially tailored model goes along in two or three suitcases and is set up for all to see. Those interested can tell immediately what the completed full-scale market will be like. They can see how marketing can be made easier, quicker, and less costly by such modern features as wide market streets, front and rear unloading platforms at the wholesale stores, plenty of parking space, and rail connections at the stores.

Some of the model markets have only 5 or 6 wholesale stores and cover an area about 8 feet square, while others depict 400 stores and cover 10 times that area. But, whatever their size, the models are artistic exhibits in miniature and provide visual demonstrations of convincing realism. It takes the entire stage of Jefferson Auditorium to hold the model of the proposed Boston market and the work and skill involved in its preparation are impressive indeed.

### HOW TO MAKE TALKS

Talks, A guide to More Effective Speaking, is a new publication from USDA's Office of Personnel. It is Administrative Series No. 8, and tells in sound practical terms how to prepare, deliver, and evaluate a talk or address of the kind most of us must make from time to time in conferences, staff meetings, and before farm groups. *If you have not yet seen this publication ask your own personnel officer how to get a copy.* In Washington, D. C., phone Ext. 3641, Division of Training, Office of Personnel.

## Japanese ag men

THE INFORMATION chief for the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Yoshio Fujimake, addressed a group of USDA information workers in Washington recently. He said similar meetings were held every Wednesday in Japan, but they sit on the floor. Japan has 9,000 farm advisers now and great impetus was given the dissemination of agricultural information by Lyle Webster, Wolf Ladezhinsky, Les Earhardt, Ray Davis, Jim Emerson, and others well known here.

The visitor told also about the breakup of the old nationalistic prewar youth clubs in Japan and their replacement by newborn rural youth clubs organized voluntarily to promote agricultural extension and home improvement. There are now 8,700 such farm clubs with 970,000 members, mostly aged 16 to 25, meeting once or twice monthly to study new farm techniques and help improve farm living. Japanese county agents advise the clubs. The greatest problem is lack of good leaders, so these are mostly trained farm and home advisers. The clubs are progressing rapidly and it looks as if they have a big future.

Waving a bundle of Japanese farm publications, tied with surprising neatness in a bright silk kerchief, Masuo Ukawa, also an official of the Ministry, gave a clear, down-to-earth picture of farm activities. The talks were supplemented with an informative movie from Japan showing glimpses of country life and the first balloting in the struggle for democracy. The visitors, who were introduced by Jim Emerson, are studying our agricultural information methods.

They displayed samples of their popular publications in USDA's Printing Section. Said they: "Here is one, illustrated with picture of white moth, recently imported from America and popularly known as American moth." Said Gus Goodrich, chief of the section: "And here is one we imported from your country, the Japanese beetle." The laugh was on both sides.

### Paul Froehlich retired

Paul Froehlich, a native of Pennsylvania and a graduate of Gettysburg College, has retired from Bureau of Agricultural Economics after 37 years with USDA, 35 of them in BAE or its predecessors. For the past 17 years he has had responsibility for compiling that many-paged annual volume which is standard equipment for those dealing with agricultural information and economics, Agricultural Statistics. He entered USDA in 1913 as a statistical clerk, spending his first 2 years in Forest Service. He was the recipient of a Superior Service Award this year and of an award for meritorious service from his alma mater in 1949.

## Longer word for job?

SCIENTISTS MUST write well. They are becoming more conscious of this all the time. Recently C. E. Rist, in charge of starch and dextrose work at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, Peoria, told the editor about a doctor of philosophy who had to be fired because he could not write comprehensible reports. Since you cannot be taught to write but must learn, the only sure way to make scientists write well is to compel them to do so as part of the prescribed course which leads to their undergraduate and graduate degrees.

But Mr. Rist differs with USDA about "officialese." He told of one employee who had just entered Government service and wrote "the hulls were removed by manual manipulation" instead of "by hand," and of another who, when filling out a form, asked: "What's a longer word for 'job'?" Sonorous, pompous, and scarcely understandable language is not necessarily governmental in origin. It can be a byproduct of the educational process. Thus a dignified and essentially dead language is developed in which to prepare scientific papers, reports, and addresses, as distinguished from the colloquial language of the living which is used for letters and conversation. Yet why have that special on-the-job language, asks Mr. Rist.

Dr. E. C. Lathrop who heads work on agricultural residues at the same lab and who is widely known for his slogan: "Agricultural waste is nobody's business," told us the impressively activated sentence the little boy used to wind up his story of Elijah and the bears. You remember the children were calling the prophet names and that angered him. So he told the children that if they kept that up he'd sic bears on them to eat them. And the boy concluded: "So they did and he did and the bears did." Well, there can be better writing than that, but not a great deal better!

## Brief but important

### When you write us—

Please give your full address—name, agency, and, in the field, street, city, and State—and print it, if you have to, so we can read it. We're going blotto trying to read some of your writing!

### To write better

Ask Tom Dale, Soil Conservation Service, to send you a copy of his processed pamphlet, Writing for Your Readers. Intended primarily for SCS workers it contains sound advice for all who want or have to write.



## Ethics for scientists

The lead article in Science for June 16 was An Ethical Code for Scientists, by Ward Pigman and Emmett B. Carmichael of the University of Alabama. The section on the general obligations of scientific authors is of particular interest to editors.

## CCC

The Commodity Credit Corporation shows a profit of over 50 million dollars on basic storable commodities; its losses have been primarily in perishables and semiperishables. Its net losses from the beginning totaled 540 million dollars up to May 1, 1950, over 400 millions since July 1, 1948, and nearly three-fourths of these on potatoes, with most of the rest on wool, eggs, and other special products.

## Shelled-corn drying tests

The USDA and Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station carried out shelled-corn drying tests at Chalmers, Ind., during the past winter. Moisture in shelled corn in storage was reduced 1 to 2 percent at a drying cost of 1 to 2 cents a bushel. If interested in a digest of the report on this work as made to the recent American Society of Agricultural Engineers meeting in Washington, D. C., by George H. Foster, USDA's engineer on the project, write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1492.

## Popular pen-type barns

Dairy farmers are always looking for ways to produce milk cheaper. One of their biggest expense headaches is barns. They've been looking increasingly to pen-type barns where the cows run loose without stanchions or tying up—"loose housing," that is. USDA and the State experiment station specialists have been studying this system some years and eight North Central State stations report that farmers are following this research with tremendous interest. Loose housing is reported to cut per cow building costs in half in some cases. Several of the major fluid-milk markets now accept milk from pen-type barns.

## RMA committee chairmen

Chairmen of the 24 advisory committees which have been appointed under the Research and Marketing Act met in Washington, June 20 to 22, for the first time, to develop general and policy recommendations and to arrive at a better understanding of their objectives and functions. They met with Secretary Brannan, Administrator Cardon of ARA, and Chief Wells of BAE, and also had sessions with various congressional committees and members thereof. If you want more details about this meeting, who attended, and the results, write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1564.

## Micromill speeds plant breeding

Equipment that saves 3 or 4 years of the time usually required by plant breeders to grow 5-pound samples of new varieties of wheat is being used by North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station to facilitate testing for bread-making quality. It is the only micromill in the land which can grind wheat samples as small as a fifth of a pound and micro-ovens which will bake the mite of flour so produced. Results are as accurate as when larger samples were used. Instead of growing a sixteenth of an acre to get a 5-pound sample the breeders can now rely on single rows of new disease-resistant strains making larger plantings to increase the supply of those showing the most promise.

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## Tour in Missouri

Twenty-five Newton County Farmers Home Administration clients and their families recently took their annual tour to check on improvements and good farming practices on the farms of their neighbors. As in other years they found many inspiring examples and many features of practical interest. Observing the other fellow's methods at close hand is always highly educational.

## Welo retires

Dr. Lars A. Welo, a physicist in our Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans, retired recently. He has worked there 4 years after transfer from the Navy, conducting fundamental studies on the physical properties of cotton fibers, their swelling and crystallinity in particular. In an entirely new and original approach to the latter he attempted to measure the behavior of cotton fibers in a magnetic field and to compute from his findings the proportions of crystalline and amorphous, or noncrystalline, material therein.

## Pasture dividends

Improved pastures pay big dividends in the dairy business. William R. Emerick is buying a Howell County, Mo., farm with a Farmers Home Administration farm-ownership loan. He had been experimenting with a ladino-orchard grass mixture which he found stood knee high on a 2-acre plot in the middle of June after being grazed by 8 heifers from October until May 1. So this spring he seeded 8 acres of improved pasture in addition to supplemental small grain, sweetclover or vetch, lespedeza, and sudan, and using 17 producing Jerseys, only 2 of which were mature. His herd had an average production of 303.4 pounds of butterfat per cow in 1949, or more than 6,000 pounds of milk by DHIA records.

## "Lottie" McKinley

Miss Charlotte D. McKinley, known to her many friends in USDA as "Lottie," has retired after 32 years' service in personnel work. She first entered USDA in 1918 and soon began doing personnel work in the office of the appointment clerk. She wound up as an administrative assistant doing placement work and interviewing applicants in the Employment Division, Office of Personnel. Said Assistant Director of Personnel S. B. Herrell: "She has seen the Department grow over many years and through two great wars, but she will still retire as young in spirit and ideas as when she first entered the Department. Miss McKinley has always been a delightful, cheerful, happy person who has gained tremendous respect of friends in every bureau of the Department."

## Miss Bell retires

Florence C. Bell, agricultural economist in the Cooperative Research and Service Division, Farm Credit Administration, has retired after more than 32 years of service, which began in December 1917 with the United States Bureau of Efficiency where she made filing surveys and installed files in a number of Government agencies. When this bureau was abolished in 1933, she came to the FCA as head of general files. August 1935 to 1940 she was with the Planning Subdivision, and surveyed the records of the Federal land banks, writing two manuals—one for disposing of obsolete records, the other a filing manual for NFLAs. For the past 10 years, she has worked on FCA publications and compiled a number of bibliographies as well as a popular circular, Farmer Co-ops in Wisconsin.

## Fish in Argentina

There is a new circular available on canned fish and fish products, with considerable information also about beef, in Argentina. To get it write the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, phone extension 2445, or call at room 5922S.

## Missouri's forest land

Missouri's commercial forest land could support five times its present volume of saw timber and provide additional income for landowners and forest industries, and more jobs. This and other facts of great interest on Missouri forest land you will find in a report by D. B. King, E. V. Roberts, and R. K. Winters of the Central States Forest Experiment Station, Columbus, Ohio, published jointly by Forest Service and the Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station, Columbia, Mo. For a digest of the report write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1579.

## New prexy for KSC

On July 1, when Milton Eisenhower (formerly Director of Information in USDA) became president of Pennsylvania State, Dr. James A. McCain succeeded him as president of Kansas State. Dr. McCain comes to KSC from Montana State University of Missoula where he has been president since 1945. He was educated at Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C.; Duke University; and at Stanford where he got his Ph.D. He served on the staff of Colorado A & M College (1934-39). A Navy veteran of 3 years standing, he also was a member of the national committee on postwar planning in forestry, Society of American Foresters, and of the Committee on the History of Psychology and the War.

## Our foreign visitors

Under President Truman's Point IV program of technical assistance to other countries, foreign agricultural scientists are coming to this country in a steady stream to learn about American agriculture. Nearly 500 persons are scheduled to arrive during this summer. They come from all over—Belgium, Denmark, Greece, France, Sweden, Turkey, and many other countries—even from Ryukyu Islands, near Okinawa. Their interests cover almost every phase of agriculture. Most of them stay for 2 to 6 months. They do not enter regular academic courses but receive special and, in most cases, individual training in research and methods of production. Their itineraries cover various Federal agencies and the State agricultural colleges.

## Mold collection

We have often written about the famous mold collection in Dr. R. W. Jackson's Fermentation Division at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory, from which penicillin sprang. Recently we visited it. Here more than 5,000 molds, yeasts, and bacteria of potential significance in fermentation processes are kept alive, some in culture media in test tubes, some dormant in dried form under vacuum in very tiny tubes. The collection is of great potential value for it contains many industrial workers of the most competent kind. New methods of preserving the micro-organisms have greatly reduced the space required to hold the collection in large electric refrigerators, and have also made it possible to hold indefinitely tiny samples of the same organism as once required continuous culture. Thus experiments with an organism can be checked many years later, if necessary, using a sample which is a portion of precisely the same culture used in the original investigation. Finally, many organisms of uncertain value can be kept anyway by the new method of preservation because they take up so little room.



## Dairy research

If you would like a digest of recent research results in Bureau of Dairy Industry write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1495.

## The blooming stream banks

Soil Conservation Service recommends planting multiflora rose along the top of stream banks to prevent or control destructive erosion along creeks, brooks, and streams in many eastern States.

## Latin American grain marketing

The USDA has under way a study of the grain-marketing situation in Latin America. This is a Research and Marketing Act project sponsored by our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. It will be conducted by Henry A. Baehr, marketing specialist and cereal chemist.

## Land management

A study of the land-management functions of the Federal Government is being undertaken by a Budget-Agriculture-Interior task force of six. For more details on this, procure Assistant Secretary Hutchinson's Memorandum dated June 14, 1950, addressed to heads of Department agencies, with attachment, from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA.

## Fuels evaluation

Dr. Richard Wlebe is in charge of motor fuels evaluation work at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory. His equipment, besides several motor cars and trucks for road runs, includes a very modern and compact engine laboratory. Here automobile engines of different types can be operated continuously or discontinuously, as desired, to test the value of fuels from agricultural products, such as alcohol, when blended with hydrocarbons, or injected separately into the engines. The effect of these fuels on engine wear can be measured at the same time.

## Strong-flavored honey

Our Eastern Regional Research Laboratory announces that its scientists have learned how to refine or deflavor low-grade honeys by the use of bentonite or charcoal. This should go far towards making marketable the 5 to 10 million pounds of dark-colored, strong-flavored honey we produce annually. For more details on the processing and use of this deflavored honey sirup write the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Philadelphia 18, Pa., and get AIC-272, Flavor Modification of Low-Grade Honey, by Jonathan W. White, Jr. and George P. Walton.

## Big grain storage

On June 2, 1930, an application was received from the Union Equity Cooperative Exchange of Enid, Okla., for licensing of its first grain storage facility (capacity 88,000 bushels) under the United States Warehouse Act. The license was issued on June 19, 1930. Through repeated additions made during the intervening years the capacity of the facility was increased to 18,466,000 bushels on February 17, 1950. On May 31, 1950, the license was amended to include an additional new facility, making a total storage capacity of this exchange of 25,900,000 bushels. This is the largest single elevator operation in the country, and no doubt in the world. It is a strictly cooperative venture and shows how big oaks from little acorns grow. The exchange, through this elevator, serves a number of local grain cooperative elevators in northwestern Oklahoma and the Panhandle of Texas.

## Boss reads his mail

Walter Annenberg, youngest editor and publisher of a major newspaper—the Philadelphia Inquirer, reads all mail addressed to him including advertising and unsigned postals. He says "I'm just too curious to have my mail sifted by secretaries."

## Efficiency Awards Committee

The following will act as a subcommittee for USDA's Efficiency Awards Committee, established by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1252, March 28, 1950, to review and pass on agency recommendations for cash awards in excess of \$100: N. R. Bear (chairman), J. H. McCormick, and J. L. Wells.

## Go home when it's hot?

Will workers in Washington go home when it's hot this year? Do workers in the field ever get dismissed because of the heat and humidity? The answer for Washington is Advance No. 218, Office of Personnel, on the Policy of Continuing Work in Washington During Hot Weather. Ask your own personnel officer to see a copy or phone extension 2939. Briefly summarized: You will never go home when it's hot—well, hardly ever.

## CCC borrowing authority

On June 28 President Truman approved H. R. 6567, thereby increasing the borrowing authority of the Commodity Credit Corporation by 2 billion dollars (from 4.75 billion to 6.75 billion). Quick approval of the bill by the President, following the long delay in passage by Congress, broke the hold-up on announcement of USDA's price-support programs on 1950 crops. Until the question of available funds was settled, many of these programs could not be announced.

## Francis G. Robb

Mr. Robb has retired from Production and Marketing Administration after long service in marketing and inspection. He entered the old Bureau of Markets as an investigator in 1917 and, in 1920, was placed in charge of fresh fruit and vegetable inspection for the Department. He retained this position except for 7 years beginning 1930 when he was in charge of regulatory work for the Fruit and Vegetable Branch, enforcing the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act. He has had 33 years of service and is widely and favorably known both in the USDA and throughout the fruit and vegetable industry.

## Three strikes against ideas

Factory Management and Maintenance for May 1950 reminds us that a new employee idea or suggestion has three strikes against it from the start: It is difficult to attract the attention of busy people to a new idea; it is natural for people to resist change, per se; and a new idea may adversely affect the job of someone or even a whole section or division. Take this into account when you offer a new idea. Proceed methodically with your campaign to gain acceptance. Be patient and persevering in addition to enthusiastic. Allow for the three human hurdles and surmount them.

## Dimming bulbs and farewell flashes

Once an electric light bulb becomes dingy inside, bits of filament have broken off and deposited on the glass, the filament is wearing thin, and the bulb gives off about half as much light as a new one, but uses the same old quantity of juice. Rural Electrification Administration experts say don't wait; replace it! Housewives should check bulbs when dusting and replace the dingy dimmers. Fluorescent lights give farewell flickers when they begin to wear out and these are hard on the eyes and also waste electricity, though occasionally a new starter cures them of the habit for a time.

## Quick applauds 4-H'ers

Quick, for June 26, devoted three pages, with pictures, to praise of America's 4-H Clubs. "Whatever the project," said Quick, "all 4-H members try to fulfill their motto to 'Make the Best Better.' Fulfilling it is a job calling for the boundless energy of youth."

## Sprayer for grapes

A single-row hooded-boom power sprayer has proved to be the most satisfactory equipment for spraying grapes in the East. If you want to know more about this write Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine and ask for EC-12, Hooded-Boom Sprayer for Grapes by G. W. Still.

## "Trade and Agriculture"

This is the title of a new book from John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 440 Fourth Avenue, New York City 16, by D. Gale Johnson, now associate professor of economics at University of Chicago. Priced at \$2.50, it examines the relationship between foreign trade and agricultural prosperity.

## USDA's radioactive research

A new and specially designed greenhouse costing about \$250,000, for research on plants and soils involving radioactive isotopes, has been completed at Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md. If interested in a detailed description of the building write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and request No. 1520.

## Dr. Schoenfeld retires

At his own request Dean W. A. Schoenfeld of the School of Agriculture, Oregon State College, has assumed emeritus status. He was also extension director and director of the experiment station. He has devoted some 40 years to American agriculture, several of them served as assistant chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and 19 at Oregon State.

## Shelterbelts

Canadian farmers in Saskatchewan are urged by their agricultural department officials to leave shelterbelts around their farm lands especially when breaking new soil to cultivation. Poplar, willow, Manitoba maple, and caragana are the trees most commonly used for such shelters. These are supplied free for the planting by a governmental nursery.

## Correction, please

Credit the repeater hypodermic needle used in testing sugarcane for disease resistance (first page of *USDA* for July 5, 1950) to Dr. F. J. LeBeau, now with Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations in Guatemala. Otto H. Coleman of the United States Sugar Plant Field Station, Meridian, Miss., writes that Dr. LeBeau developed this unusual technique while doing research there last summer.

August 2, 1950

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 16, 1950

## New Under Secretary

CLARENCE J. McCORMICK, an Indian (Hoosier to you) who operates a 265-acre farm near Vincennes, has been nominated by the President to be Under Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. McCormick's appointment was confirmed by the Senate July 24. In 1936 he was instrumental in starting a local REA co-op and, in 1937, in forming a local Soil Conservation District. He was a member of the Indiana State AAA Committee, 1938-42, when he transferred to the USDA in Washington as chief of the corn and soybean section of CCC, in which capacity he served until 1945. During 1946 he was district farmer field man for FCIC.

Mr. McCormick was educated at the Indiana State Teachers College and Vincennes University. He studied agriculture and science and later taught these subjects at Dicker (Ind.) High School where he had graduated also. His work in farm programs started as secretary-treasurer and office manager of the Knox County Corn-Hog Association. In addition to the 265-acre farm mentioned above Mr. McCormick operates the 100-acre farm on which he lives and leases a place of 250 acres. Since 1945 he has been president of the Knox County Farm Bureau, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Farm Bureau, and of the Columbus, Ohio, Livestock Producers Association.

## Two new publications

"Wholesale Distribution of Citrus Fruits in Five Terminal Markets, December 1946-March 1947" is the name of the Miscellaneous Report 139 from FCA, by J. K. Samuels and G. H. Goldsborough; *procure copies from the Director of Information and Extension, Farm Credit Administration.* \* \* \* Electricity on Farms in the Upper Piedmont of Georgia, a study financed by the Research and Marketing Act which indicates that the average consumption of electricity on farms in the Upper Piedmont of Georgia will double during the next decade, is available from the Experiment Station of the University System of Georgia, Experiment, Ga., or from our Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## Ag info In Europe

IF YOU WERE a Government employee in Europe you would probably be held in even less esteem than here and your income would quite likely be lower than that of those working outside government. If you worked for the department or ministry of agriculture it would tend to be quite small and deficient in information specialists and techniques. Your means of locomotion would many times be the legs, either used directly for walking or to pedal a bicycle, even if you were in extension and had a thousand farmers to reach.

For, in some countries, the extension workers have a case load of as many as 5,000 farmers, though Britain now aims at 800 and the figure is 400 in Holland. As a whole these extension workers are not so well trained as ours. The British extension service is wholly federalized and centralized, but that of Scotland depends more on local direction and support. So it is throughout, extreme centralization here, extreme decentralization with too little control and coordination higher up, perhaps in the nextdoor nation. In Scandinavia especially and sometimes elsewhere powerful farm organizations and rural co-ops perform many of the informational, educational, and extension activities for which we here depend upon government.

Generally speaking the European farmer is regarded as a case apart, a peasant rather than an integral or essential factor in the economy. Agricultural information does not reach the great masses who need it either quickly or effectively. Often channels of communication exist but are poorly utilized. Agricultural information is simply not regarded as the effective tool we have found it to be here. Existing information and extension workers are spread much too thinly, and coordination is lacking in different parts of the same

country, while interchange of experiences and techniques between countries hardly exists. There is an extremely wide range of agricultural advancement, the most primitive and the most modern techniques often being almost side by side. Private farm organizations undertake many things they are unaccustomed to undertake here.

(Above are the editor's impressions after talking with Associate Director of Information R. L. Webster upon his return from 3½ months in Europe as consultant to the Economic Cooperation Administration to advise on getting the transmission of agricultural information under way. While there Mr. Webster visited France, Germany, Austria, England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.)

## Our Department

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is the central organization of many State and local, public, cooperative, and private agencies that serve agriculture and all the people by means of research, education, credit, resource conservation, marketing services, income stabilization, disease and insect control, regulation, and policy formulation. Today it has 35 percent fewer paid employees than in 1939. In April 1950 it had 60,952 full-time direct employees. Its workers fall into some 4,000 classes of positions, reflecting skills in wide variety.

The Agricultural Research Administration, composed of 7 bureaus, employs about 4,000 professional research workers and aides. More than 5,800 research workers are employed by the States in 53 agricultural experiment stations. The Federal Extension Service with 218 full-time employees works cooperatively in the States through about 12,000 local agents. Rural Electrification Administration employs 1,200 and makes loans to 1,000 co-ops. Farmers Home Administration employs 6,300 and lends to and works with thousands of individual farmers. Farm Credit Administration has 450 employees who supervise and serve 48 major banks and corporations and 1,736 cooperative lending associations and other farmer co-ops.

Forest Service has 9,600 full-time employees to manage 181 million acres of forest land, and cooperates with 9,800 persons employed by State forest agencies. Production and Marketing Administration has about 12,000 employees and carries out multiple tasks working with and through 32,000 county and community committees. But rarely if ever will you find 100 employees anywhere doing the same work under the same conditions. Few do the same job at the same place. It is a matter of infinite variety.



We have 1,617 FHA county supervisors, each facing different soil, economic, social, technological, and crop conditions. Our 3,020 meat inspectors are scattered in a thousand separate establishments located in 365 cities. We have 750 forest rangers, but on the average only 5 per forest. About 50,000 of our people, 82 percent, are in the field, dispersed among some 7,700 offices with 11,000 mailing outlets. *USDA* serves them all. It is a national publication. Always remember it serves and is read by 5 or 6 in the field to 1 of us in Washington, D. C.

### He-man trees

A tree must really be sturdy to live in the city where smoke and gas corrupt, opportunities for physical injury and water shortages abound, the soil is hard-packed and lacking in humus and mulch, its roots are crowded, and the ill effects of both summer heat and wintry blasts are accentuated by pavements and buildings. Accumulated soot or oily soil on leaves tend to screen out sunlight, which serves to starve the tree as the leaves are its food-making apparatus. But the allanhus, horsechestnut, hackberry, American ash, ginko, poplars, sycamores, willows, lindens, and elms are brutes enough to cope with this. However, sugar maple, sourgum, sweetgum, and honeylocusts grow well only in unpolluted air. Underground pipe laying and construction always going on in cities, damage delicate feeder roots; illuminating gas from underground lines tends to gas the trees; or they suffer injury in automobile accidents, collisions with power mowers, or when branches are lopped off to make room for power lines, which open the way to infectious disease and injurious insects.

### DO YOU DICTATE?

Supervisors who dictate with mumbled or chewed words: Take heed. Division of Training, Office of Personnel, has published a new, profusely illustrated booklet, "Tips for Those Who Dictate." *The pamphlet, Administrative Series No. 7, can be obtained from your bureau personnel or training officer—both Washington and field employees.*

### FIRE AND EMERGENCY

Washington employees: *Please note the inside back page of your telephone books; there you will find what to do in case of fire or emergency.* These instructions are not all immediately applicable in the field because they refer specifically to the Administration and South Buildings in Washington, D. C. However, wherever you are, acquaint yourself with the location of the fire alarm boxes; if you turn in the alarm, which should be done at once, stick around to direct others to the fire; when you hear an alarm close windows, shut off gas and electricity, leave promptly taking only such personal belongings as safety permits, and get clear of the building. *Remember good housekeeping is mandatory.* DO NOT: Permit trash to accumulate; install hot plates or cooking apparatus unless adequately protected; throw matches or lighted cigarettes in wastebaskets or out the windows; obstruct corridors, aisles, doors, or windows with furniture or equipment; open or fasten back fire doors.

## Job flexibility

THE USDA has signed an Executive Development Agreement with the Civil Service Commission. Under this our agencies can transfer, reassign, or promote employees to positions for which they may not have the necessary background of experience, hence could not meet the exact qualification standards. The object of the executive development program is to broaden the experience of some employees, thus enabling them to qualify themselves for all around executive and administrative positions in two categories: From administrative to administrative jobs—e. g. personnel to budget; from scientific, professional, and technical to administrative jobs.

Action will begin as soon as the agencies prepare their statements outlining their own plans for approval of the director of personnel. The agencies will then establish boards to select potential executives in grades varying from GS-5 up. Each employee selected will get hand-tailored training, while a development plan will be prepared outlining his training needs. Such employees, when selected, might have rotating assignments to other divisions or locations; participate in appropriate conferences and regular or special in-service training courses; receive career counseling at various stages.

USDA is the second Federal agency to have such an agreement with the CSC; Navy was first. Employees of the following administrative status can participate in the program, if selected: Personnel administration; placement; qualification rating; test rating; position classification; employee relations; general clerical and administrative; organization and methods examining; budget administration; instruction.

### From PISAE

The following staff members of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, attended the Seventh International Botanical Congress at Stockholm: Sidney Blake, John A. Stevenson, W. W. Diehl, Muriel O'Brien, Lee M. Hutchins, G. F. Gravatt, E. R. Sears, and Richard Evans Schultes. \* \* \* The addition of 1 to 7 pounds of nitrogen per ton of manure, added in the form of cottonseed meal, brewer's grains, or other high-protein foodstuffs, to the compost for growing mushrooms, was found by Drs. E. B. Lambert and T. T. Ayers considerably to increase yields. \* \* \* Dr. Truman E. Henton who heads the Farm Electrification Division was granted a doctorate of science by Purdue for leadership and distinguished service in the application of engineering science to agriculture. \* \* \* Frederick C. Bradford, since 1937 superintendent of the Plant Introduction Garden, Glenn Dale, Md., a native of Massachusetts, and a graduate of Harvard with a master's from the University of Maine, died June 20, aged 63.

## Brief but important

### Sherman's new book

Dr. Henry C. Sherman, who was for a while chief of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, is author of a new non-technical 270-page book from Columbia University Press, entitled "The Nutritional Improvement of Life" and priced at \$3.75.

### Pigs in the parlor

If you want to know something about progress in television where concerned with agricultural information don't miss the article by Joe Tonkin, Extension Service, in July *Agricultural Situation* (available from Bureau of Agricultural Economics) entitled "TV Brings Farm Into Your Home."

### Indianapolis produce market

A new study by Production and Marketing Administration shows that over \$750,000 annually could be saved in food-marketing costs by the installation of new wholesale produce market facilities in Indianapolis. The study was made under the Research and Marketing Act. The market handles about 40,000 carloads of food annually valued at over 265 million dollars. For a digest of the study write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1622.

### Interested in grass seed?

Then read the fascinating story by Ben James of Production and Marketing Administration on the man responsible for most of our lawns, Howard Wagner of eastern Oregon: "Grass Seed Is His Business," in *Nation's Business* for July. Wagner made a million growing grass seed where the experts said they could not be grown. In the same issue we note the names of Arthur Bartlett and Oscar Schisgall, known to many of you, as authors of nonagricultural articles.

### Scientists learning to write?

The *New Statesman and Nation* (London) gives us the portentous information that the British Royal Society has issued a little booklet entitled "General Notes on the Preparation of Scientific Papers." Young scientists are said to use a pompously involved language, rich with the third person and the kind of long-winded writing that speaks of engineers as "members of the engineering profession." Confused themselves, they also utterly confuse their readers, so an effort will be made to encourage them to write plain English occasionally saying, perhaps, "I thought" and "I did."

### Xylose

Many years ago the editor of *USDA* when in the laboratory prepared this 5-carbon sugar from corncobs after finding out they worked better than oat hulls as a raw material. He made it by the ounce and xylose then sold for some \$500 a pound. Recently the editor found Dr. E. C. Lathrop at the Northern Regional Research Laboratory all but surrounded by xylose. He and his colleagues have worked out a method by which some hundreds of pounds have been prepared at less than 10 cents a pound. Considerable quantities of the sugar are also being used industrially now—just how is the question. But it looks as if there may be a not-too-distant and quite bright future for the substance which was a chemical curiosity when the editor monkeyed with it around 1915 to 1918. (If interested look up the History of Xylose, by T. Swann Harding, in the magazine called "Sugar" for March 1923.)



## Chromatography

Yes, that's right, and not as we had it in the August 2 issue when our automatic orthographer flared up on us. On page 2 of the same issue, first paragraph, second column, Fujimaki, Ladejinsky, and Erhardt are correct for what you saw there.

## "Too Late to Save Asia?"

This is the title of a most informative article by Wolf I. Ladejinsky, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, in the Saturday Review of Literature for July 22. The magazine is priced at 20 cents a copy from 25 West 41 St., New York City 19, and is also available in most libraries of any size.

## Worried about food?

Don't hoard. Hoarded food soon stales or spoils. Instead, listen to what Secretary Brannan and USDA officials in the know have to say. Get a copy of The National Food Situation for July-September 1950 from Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and read it carefully. Or write the editor of *USDA* (address in last column, last page) and request No. 1805.

## Secy's office awards

The Office of the Secretary held its own Length-of-Service Awards ceremony recently in the Jefferson Auditorium. Among the 29 to receive the awards were a half dozen who had more than 30 years of service to their credit as of May 15, 1950: Director of Personnel T. Roy Reid; Ennia Almond of the Office of Budget and Finance; and Oliver Brown, Philip Mackey, Frederick Magruder, and Ivor Nalley of the Office of Plant and Operations.

## Limits on housing loans

Responding to the request of the President the Secretary has announced changes in the farm housing loans program. Whereas a borrower's real estate debt could equal the value of his farm, farm building loans will now be approved only when the amount of the loan plus any other indebtedness on the farm does not create a total debt of over 95 percent of the farm's appraised value. All loans will be limited to 95 percent of the building costs as estimated July 1, 1950, to prevent Government loans from being used to pay inflated prices for labor or building materials.

## How to treat a boss

The famous model, Candy Jones, says that her rules were to be as pleasant and courteous to business visitors as to friends at home; watch the clock early in the morning, to get to work on time; ask if there is anything additional you can do; admit your mistakes candidly; be a diplomat always; welcome suggestions; be neat in your work habits; handle minor problems yourself to spare the boss bother with trivialities; be affable and congenial at all times; never impose your personal problems on the job; work on your own and ask the fewest possible questions; try to find things out for yourself. Candy, you're hired!

## Insect aviators

Talbot H. Waterman, a Yale zoologist, recently reported in the American Scientist that bees and houseflies have their own natural gyroscopes, airspeed indicators, and sky compasses. The eye tissues of the bee constitute a polarized-light compass which enables it to determine the azimuth with considerable accuracy, and guides it unerringly back to its hive—unless it is dark—then the bee staggers home like some human beings. The housefly has antennae which serve as speed indicators because sensitive to air pressure. It also has a pair of tiny, rapidly oscillating, club-shaped organs called "halters" protruding from its wings which serve as gyroscopic turn indicators.

## Duckham to London

A. N. Duckham, for some time agricultural attaché with the British Embassy, is returning to London to accept an important assignment in the advisory service of the Ministry of Agriculture. During his 5 years here he has visited every State in the Union and all but one of the land-grant colleges and universities.

## Symons to retire

Dean and Director of Extension T. B. Symons of Maryland will retire soon after 48 years of continuous service to Maryland agriculture. Director of extension since 1914, he became dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Maryland, in 1939. He was a faculty member when the editor of *USDA* attended the institution known then as Maryland Agricultural College.

## J. Harry Hurst

Mr. Hurst, who has been with *USDA* since February 1941, employed in Production and Marketing Administration and its predecessors, died suddenly of a heart attack July 7, aged 40. He attended Atlanta Law School and Southern Methodist University, and was an administrative officer, Direct Distribution Division, Food Distribution Programs Branch, PMA, at the time of his death.

## Feed co-op costs

"Operating Costs of Selected Cooperative Feed Mills and Distributors," by Lacey F. Rickey, is Bulletin 56 from Farm Credit Administration, from which it may be procured. An unusual touch on page 1 is the author's statement that "Miss Imogene Duncan prepared the tables and typed the manuscript." Credit where credit is also due! The publication is from ECA's Cooperative Research and Service Division.

## Mink breed poorly?

If you are concerned about breeding failures among farm-raised mink, do not feed caponette heads if you feed poultry offal. These chickens have had a pellet of diethylstilbestrol implanted in their necks from 2 to 4 weeks before marketing to fatten them, shrink the comb, and reduce pin feathers. Their heads contain an excess of this drug which produces female hormones which may, in turn, interfere with reproduction and cause breeding failures.

## Quantity recipes

Ten new recipes featuring widely available foods are the first output from the new quantity-service laboratory, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Issued in pamphlet form and in portions for 25, 50, and 100, these are the first in a series to be released during a Research and Marketing Act project. Dietitians and food managers who want their names added to the mailing list for the series, "Recipes for Quantity Service" write Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, *USDA*, Washington 25, D. C.

## Dr. Henry D. Barker

Dr. Barker, a native of South Carolina and a graduate of Clemson who holds advanced degrees from the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota, has succeeded Dr. Charles R. Sayre as head of the Division of Cotton and Other Fiber Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering. Dr. Sayre resigned to become president and managing director of the Delta and Pine Land Co., Scott, Miss. Dr. Barker became a field agent with *USDA* in 1917 while doing graduate work at Minnesota and, from 1924 until 1936, he was on the staff of the Haiti Experiment Station, first as botanist and plant pathologist, later as cotton specialist and director.

## Aircraft as fire-fighters

Forest Service officials are convinced that aircraft have proved their value in detecting and suppressing fires on the National Forests. If you want more details write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, *USDA*, and request No. 1767.

## Farmer's Book Club

Thought you might like to know that The Farmer's Book Club has been organized as a division of Devin-Adair Co., 23 East 26th, New York City 10. Robert West Howard of Annisquam, Mass., well-known rural writer, is associated with it as organizational and editorial consultant. For more details address it as above.

## Trees

The message of Leaflet No. 277 from Forest Service is to the effect that trees should be appraised and cut when their value is highest as pulpwood, sawlogs, or poles, and that the farmer profits most from his wood lot when he does his own logging or has it done under his supervision. Agriculture Handbook No. 5 is a revised edition of the 64-page pocket-size guide describing and picturing 30 species and 2 varieties of native Alaska trees, and many shrubs as well. It is by Raymond F. Taylor and Elbert L. Little of *FS*.

## Soil Conservation at 15

Soil Conservation, official organ of the Soil Conservation Service, celebrated its fifteenth anniversary with the August issue which contains a long, chatty historical article by Chief Hugh H. Bennett, and also "A Few Remarks on Reaching a Milepost" by Wellington Brink, who has been the editor of this illustrated magazine since it began to appear. Brink's remarkable durability is exceeded only by his editorial gifts. Soil Conservation is \$1 a year, 10 cents a copy: Order from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

## Consumer speaks

The "Consumer Speaks" project, recently completed by the American Home Economics Association, showed how consumers could take the lead in writing specifications for women's clothing to guide the clothing industry. Pioneer research to find the construction techniques that produced the most durable garments was conducted for years by our Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics where Miss Mary C. Whitlock supervised experiments. Her laboratory findings provided data upon which many specifications were based. Dresses conforming to specifications for fabric and construction drawn up by the Association's consumer interests committee were displayed and modeled at its Boston meeting, July 11.

## DDT routes termites

A single DDT treatment gives complete 5-year protection against termites in the soil about the foundation of a building. Our scientists in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine use 5 percent DDT in No. 2 fuel oil to solve this age-old insect problem, applying the mixture to soil surrounding wooden structures at a rate of 1 quart per cubic foot. DDT has proven to be as effective as many of the other chemicals tested. Sodium arsenite, which is fairly cheap, highly effective, but extremely poisonous, is still one of the most effective soil poisons used for termite control. DDT is well suited to the job of preventing termites from getting into buildings. Preventing their entry is much better than trying to kill them off after they arrive. How long the protection afforded actually lasts remains to be determined.



## Log defects

"Log Defects in Southern Hardwoods," by C. R. Lockard, J. A. Putnam, and R. D. Carpenter, of the Southern Forest Experiment Station, is a new Forest Service publication, Agriculture Handbook No. 4.

## In other words

The British Countryman says that one of its readers a half century ago saw this notice in an English cottage window: "Gentleman's Habillments Renovated, Depurated, Manipulated, and Transmogrified, by C. Jordan, Cosmopolite. Also Elongated and Abbreviated."

## Interested in toxaphene?

R. C. Roark, Division of Insecticide Investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, is the author of a new processed publication called "A Digest of Information on Toxaphene." There is an opulent bibliography of 334 numbers. Ask EPQ for E-802.

## Rambo and Milam to New Delhi

Earle K. Rambo, extension agricultural engineer at University of Arkansas, and Ford M. Milam, an agronomist with recent experience in El Salvador and Korea, have gone to Delhi at the request of the Government of India to act as consultants to the Ministry of Agriculture.

## Tomato spoilage in marketing

Bulletin 383 of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station reports on a project carried on jointly with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and is entitled "Physical Losses, Marketing Costs, and Prices of Fresh Tomatoes." If you want a further description of the publication write Press Service, USDA, and request No. 1663.

## Harris to Iran

Dr. Franklin S. Harris, president emeritus of Utah State, and one of our leading authorities on dry-land farming, has gone to Iran as a representative of our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, where he will work with the Government in its agricultural improvement program. He will be stationed at the American Embassy in Teheran.

## Leave it to the Texans

The scientists at College Station, Tex., are investigating goldenrod, the yellow menace once thought to cause hay fever—and also proposed as our national flower. They have found in it an essential oil with a licorice flavor. They think this might be used in candy or chewing gum or to impart fragrance to deodorants and insecticides. Sweet Goldenrod is the species they so far find most interesting of the 39 they have studied.

## How life began

A new theory has been evolved in London that the stage was set for the appearance of life on earth millions of years ago when our atmosphere, during a cooling-off period, was composed mainly of nitrogen and carbon dioxide and the seas were a weak solution of ammonia, carbon dioxide, and hydrogen sulfide. With no ozone in the air to filter out ultraviolet radiation from the sun the seas were so bombarded therewith that smaller molecules joined up to make larger ones, producing amino acids from which proteins have developed. Later clay is supposed to have concentrated the substances concerned by absorption, larger and larger protein molecules were formed, and they finally began to slowly lose their independence and join together into loose units. Such organizations were a step on the way to life.

## Hop research

A study of hop quality has recently been completed by the USDA and the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station under authority of the Research and Marketing Act. For more details write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1717.

## Crop insurance

"Report to Congress of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 1949," and two readable informative folders: "Did You Know That Multiple Crop Insurance Protects Your Crop Investment?" and "Did You Know That Federal Crop Insurance Protects Your Corn Investment?" will tell you a lot about the work of FCIC. All can be procured from the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

## Cotton research

"Cotton Under the Research and Marketing Act" is the title of a talk delivered July 27, at the eleventh annual Cotton Research Congress, by Dr. P. V. Cardon who heads the Agricultural Research Administration. It is just that. If you want to know more about the research projects under way or completed on cotton write T. Swann Harding, Office of Information, USDA, and ask for No. 1745.

## Family clothing supplies

A new survey made possible by Research and Marketing Act funds and carried on by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics gives facts and figures long wanted for more efficient marketing by economists and the Nation's clothing industry from fiber producer to retailer. This first report deals with the numbers of different usable garments owned by persons of different ages in Minneapolis-St. Paul families in three income groups.

## Solicitor's alumni

Edwin E. Ferguson, who left the Office of the Solicitor in 1942, has recently been named general counsel of the Indian Service, Department of the Interior. Albert H. Cotton, who resigned 2 years ago to accept a fellowship at Yale, was last year on the faculty of Louisiana State and has accepted a position this year on the faculty of University of Richmond Law School. John B. Poindexter, formerly with Sol, is now a hearing examiner with the Civil Aeronautics Board, Dallas, Tex.

## Spelling class!

The girls who aren't natural spellers—and some of the rest of us—know just what Lord Lytton meant when he said: "A more lying, puzzle-headed delusion than that by which we confuse the clear instincts of truth in our accursed system of spelling was never concocted by the father of falsehood. How can a system of education flourish that begins by so monstrous a falsehood which the sense of hearing suffices to contradict?" (American Encyclopedia, vol. 21, p. 791.)

## Grape flavor captured

Scientists at our Eastern Regional Research Laboratory who have already captured the delicate and elusive flavor of fresh apples have now succeeded in concentrating the volatile flavor constituents from Concord grape juice. They use the product to improve the natural taste and aroma of various grape products. Here for the first time is a grape essence containing all the volatile flavor of fresh grape juice. For more details write Press Service USDA, and ask for No. 1604.

## Braum leaves—Shepherd follows

Dan Braum, chief of the Management Training Section, Office of Personnel, since 1941, has left to become chief training officer for General Services Administration. A graduate of Kansas State he is a former farmer, Kansas county agent, and Soil Conservation Service worker. Henry Shepherd, formerly assistant chief of the Employment Division, Pers has succeeded Dan. A graduate of Ohio University at Athens, Ohio, he has long held responsible positions in Pers and was in SCS before that.

## "Marketing Activities"

The July issue of this processed publication from Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, contains much of interest. The lead article by M. W. Baker tells about PMA's work of inspecting raw products for processing. "Better Than the Human Touch" by L. E. Ide and Amihud Kramer, describes instruments used to make precise tests of the tenderness of asparagus, peas, sweet corn, tomatoes, and snap beans, the tenderometer that measures the maturity of peas, and the succulometer which measures the juice content of sweet corn. Finally, under the title "Simple Refractometer Developed," W. Haward Hunt, M. H. Neustadt, and Lawrence Zeleny describe and picture that new hand refractometer developed in PMA.

## Market News

Two-thirds of our daily papers and some 1,200 radio stations now carry USDA market news reports. Some 28 million mimeographed reports prepared by Production and Marketing Administration are distributed each year to producers, the food trade, and interested individuals who request them. Beginning 36 years ago with a single office reporting strawberries in Hammond, La., the service has grown to include more than 100 farm commodities, providing unbiased factual information on supply, demand, and prices. Today reports are issued from 105 year-round and 45 seasonal offices operating through a Nation-wide system of field offices connected by 10,000 miles of leased-wire facilities.

## Three employees of B&F retire:

Three employees of the Office of Budget and Finance with a combined total of 96 years of Federal Service, 59 years of which were spent in the USDA, and all of this in the Office of Budget and Finance or its predecessor organizations, retired on June 30, 1950. Mrs. Isabel M. Dilbeck, with 32 years of service, 28 in USDA, entered the Federal service with the War Department in 1918. Mr. Benjamin A. (Ben) Nicholson with 38 years of service, 14 in USDA, entered the Federal service with the Government Printing Office in 1911. Miss Mabel I. Coleman, with 26 years of service, 17 in USDA, entered the Federal service with the War Department in 1924. Each of these employees has served loyally and faithfully for many years. Good luck and a long life!

## August 16, 1950 Vol. IX, No. 17

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR AUGUST 30, 1950

grain beef could be increased, and more milk could be marketed fluid and as cream. Packs of some canned fruits and vegetables could still be increased to meet greater demand. Some foods now being bought by USDA for price support purposes could be absorbed by increased consumer demand.

## She makes potatoes

NO DOUBT you have seen those graded No. 1 potatoes in 10-pound paper sacks. But did you know there was a comely young lady in Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, who can make artificial potatoes so like the real thing you wouldn't know the difference until you bit into one? They even feel like potatoes. They come in various shapes. The young lady also paints model carrots, onions, garlic, sweetpotatoes, cucumbers, apples of many and filberts of several varieties, pears, oranges, grapefruit, and lemons to exact versimilitude of the real thing. Furthermore, she usually has to paint an average of 40 samples of the same model so exactly alike that legal cases can hinge on them and inspectors cannot tell them apart.

This young artist, who studied at Corcoran in Washington, D. C., is Dolores I. Tourangeau, and she had no idea she would ever hold this kind of job, but she loves it. To get it she was asked to paint the plaster model of an apple. Not long after she ate the real apple, then the phone rang asking her to bring it for comparison with her artificial product. Result: She had to paint a plaster lemon and promise not to eat her model. She got the job. She has been at work here for 2 years and last year she completed more than a thousand plaster models of fruits and vegetables, as well as some other things—paintings of realistic spinach leaves in plexiglass slides and paintings of sad-looking sick onions, done in oils on artist's paper to guide inspectors in grading real onions.

You read in PMA's annual report about the standardization and grading work it does on fresh products, how this year it established or revised U. S. standards for tangerines or potatoes or filberts or red sour cherries. You read also: "Much progress was made in the preparation and distribution of plaster models, photographs, and other visual-aid material to assist inspectors in making uniform interpretations of grade factors." Over a million carlots of fresh fruits and vegetables are inspected per year, and inspectors at shipping points must have Miss Tourangeau's paintings,

## Facts on food

THE FACTS ON FOOD as given by Miss M. C. Burk of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics before the Secretary's Staff Conference July 27 are these: Food supplies for the civilian population will continue in the next 5 months at about the same high level of the past 2 years, that is 11 percent above the 1935-39 average. Food production in 1950 should total about the same as in 1949, or 38 percent above the 1935-39 average, and 20 above 1941. Stocks in distribution channels are large; USDA holdings of some food are substantial; there are large grain carryovers. Food exports, mostly grains, will probably continue smaller than since 1945, despite some anticipated increases in military procurement, for purchases to feed civilians in occupied areas will probably decrease.

Over-all demand for food rose during this spring and summer with the general rise in economic activity. Retail prices were rising before June 25. The Korean situation will further strengthen demand based on enhanced purchasing power as more people go to work, overtime pay increases, and better paying jobs become available. This increased consumer demand will be checked somewhat by proposed tax increases, restrictions on credit, and payments on durable goods now being bought in large volume. Over-all, some further increases in retail food prices are expected during the next 5 months, say 3-4 percent above the July level. But scare buying should calm down as it did in 1939.

Food consumption per capita is down about 7 percent from the 1946 peak. This mainly represents declines in consumption of fluid milk and cream, ice cream, meats, and fresh and processed fruits and vegetables. But, with large feed supplies available, hogs can be fed to heavier weights, the production of

## Farmers Home

A MAJOR PART of the loans made through Farmers Home Administration today are being used to help farm families readjust their work to changing conditions and veterans and other young farmers to become established in agriculture. FHA loans tend to encourage the family-type farm as the base of American agriculture; the agency discourages seasonal lending where poor farming methods might be perpetuated. During the fiscal year ended June 30 last, 105,960 farmers who could not get operating or production credit elsewhere, borrowed from FHA, 95,000 of whom obtained loans payable over periods up to 5 years, based on individual farm-and-home plans calling for good practices, and such reorganization of enterprises as was necessary for stability and adequate income.

The proportion of such adjustment loans has been increasing yearly ever since 1947, 1-year loans for seed, feed, fertilizers, and so on, have dropped. Ninety-six percent of the \$96,257,669 advanced in production loans the past fiscal year was in the form of adjustment rather than seasonal credit. Here the FHA local supervisor helps the family adopt improved farm-and-home practices. Such loans averaged \$1,328 or \$105 more than in 1949. Veterans received 49 percent of the funds loaned, a larger proportion than in any previous year, and more than 41,000 former servicemen borrowed. Their loans averaged about \$1,560 because their needs for foundation livestock and basic equipment were usually greater than those of other farmers. Last fiscal year farmers repaid more than \$91,725,000 in principal and interest on operating loans including those made for the 1949 and earlier crop years.



plexiglass slides, and plaster models to guide them. The carlot inspection charge for grade certification is \$7.50; the hourly rate charged for condition inspections is \$3.

But back of it all stands the incredible exactitude of this young artist's very practical painting. If halved unroasted peanuts are to be judged for dirt content then she must produce deceptively realistic models of these, each one of which contains on its surface so many painted-in dust spots. When she makes 40 reproductions of her work to guide inspectors at 40 shipping points, not one spot on any peanut half in the whole lot must differ in size or depth of color from any other! Court cases and banking loans depend on her work. It just has to be accurate. All this repetition doesn't bore her. She flits almost gaily back and forth from 40 McIntosh apples to slices of tomato on plexiglass or to painting onions in oils on art paper.

These slices of tomato when finished will depict the upper and lower grades of color permissible for this product of a certain grade, and all 40 of each must be exactly alike. Miss Tourangeau may have had visions of doing landscapes or realistic still lifes. Instead she does incredibly lifelike portraits of filbert nuts and sweetpotatoes. She stands in an old tradition. The first entomologist of the USDA was Townend Glover, an English-born artist. After he came to this country and settled in New York State he made and painted many realistic models of American fruits. So fine was the collection that USDA bought it for its Museum for \$10,000. Miss Tourangeau is Townend Glover's worthy successor, and she's nicer to look at than he was too! But *don't* make the mistake of biting into this Eve's apple unless you have a tooth to lose. That has been done and the apple's surface is abrasionproof and a tooth-breaker.

## Graduate School

The USDA Graduate School begins its thirtieth year this fall. Registration lasts from September 16 to 23 and all classes begin the week of September 25. More than 190 individual courses are available covering a wide range of subjects in the biological, physical, and social sciences, languages and literature, mathematics and statistics, office techniques and operations, public administration, and technology. Yet the school's first announcement consisted of an eight-page mimeograph, but even then its horizon was unlimited! And its curriculum was advanced for the time. Among early faculty members were the following: H. R. Tolley, C. O. Appleman, L. R. Jones, Burton E. Livingston, Sewall Wright, W. J. Humphreys, R. C. Tolman, Alexander E. Cance, C. L. Shear, O. E. Stine, and Edgar T. Wherry. Here is a college with traditions. Join up!

## Chips from the Lab

FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY, Forest Service, Madison, Wis., has a lively and active employees' association with the primary objective of promoting democratic ideals, practices, and relationships among employees. The organization came into being 3 years ago on the original recommendation and with the approval of Director George M. Hunt, but was planned and developed by a representative employee committee.

As called for in the Articles of Association, a house organ was developed and is now issued by the employees outside of official hours and at no cost to the Government. It is a processed monthly entitled "Chips," and from the samples sent to us by Gordon D. Logan, chief of the Laboratory's Division of Personnel Management, we should say it is very well done indeed. Copies go to all the Lab's retirees as well as to active employees. The Forest Products Laboratory Employees' Association already has a long list of useful accomplishments to its credit. This year, among other things, it sponsored publication of an Anniversary Booklet for the Laboratory's fortieth birthday.

## Retirement Act

THE RETIREMENT ACT has been amended recently. Public Law 601, approved by the President July 6, provided additional benefits for annuitants who retired before April 1, 1948, and were alive on that date. These benefits are: An increase in annuity of 25 percent or \$300 whichever is lesser for those annuitants who elected widow or widower pensions in lieu of an increased annuity under the act of February 28, 1948, and widow or widower pensions for those annuitants who elected an increased annuity in lieu of such pensions under the act of February 28, 1948.

Public Law 547, approved June 14, canceled all designations of beneficiaries now on file at Civil Service Commission, as of December 31, 1950, and established a new order of precedence for making lump-sum payments. The amendment provides for payment to the first person or persons listed, beginning with the widow or widower. Only if you want to name a person not listed or in a different order than listed must you now designate a beneficiary. Designations should be made on the new form SF-2808. For more details on this and the list mentioned above *consult your own personnel officers.*

## The potato beetle

YOU SAW those articles about the sudden appearance of the Colorado potato beetle behind the Iron Curtain and the explanation that it was spread via airplane? The beetle was discovered in France, however, in 1922, had spread widely in western Europe by 1937, under its own power, and got into Germany around 1934 to 1936. It had been discovered in Colorado in 1824 and reached the Atlantic seaboard by 1874 unassisted by common carriers. It moved from the Mississippi River to the Atlantic seaboard at an average rate of about 88 miles a year.

This spread is accomplished mainly by flight, though railroads and boats can act as transporting agencies. Records of its distribution in the United States and Europe indicate that the potato beetle can and will spread without any feeble deliberate attempts by man to further its distribution. Beetles that have taken flight can appear suddenly in uninfested regions. A few individuals lay eggs unnoticed and produce large numbers of larvae or slugs whose presence is manifested by defoliated potato plants. The insect has been reported in every State except California and Nevada. Its spread in Europe has almost certainly been by normal means. Whenever insecticides for its control are lacking it can go on a rampage any time any place.

## REA telephones

THAT TELEPHONE program in Rural Electrification Administration is going along nicely, thank you. The work entailed by the program has been well integrated into existing divisions of REA by an interesting administrative procedure. Coverage and the making of the loans closely resemble the same for the standard rural electrification loans.

Through June 30, REA had made 17 telephone loan allocations for total of about 3.5 million dollars. It announced a loan of \$142,000 to the Abercrombie Telephone Co., Abercrombie, N. Dak., as approved July 7. The first allocation for rural telephone service in the State of North Carolina, approved July 31, was for \$518,000 to a new co-op to serve 2,456 rural subscribers on 528 miles of line in Yadkin, Davie, and a portion of Iredell Counties, an area now virtually in the prettelephone era. Three others were approved the first week of August. As of June 30, total applications numbered



about 500 for over 56 million dollars in loans. The future is uncertain, as for all of us, clouded by world conditions. But it does seem that a telephone is more important to a food- and fiber-producing farmer in time of emergency than to a food- and fiber-consuming urban home-maker.

## Brief but important

### AG RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION

We offer you "Research Developments That Will Affect Agricultural Production," a discussion at the Secretary's Staff Meetings May 11 and May 18, 1950, with Executive Assistant to the Secretary Wesley McCune presiding. Here is an unsurpassed opportunity for you to inform yourself about USDA's top policy thinking on this vitally important subject. To get a copy write the editor of *USDA* (address as in last column, last page) and request the mimeographed material by the title given above.

### Farmers' Cooperatives

If you want "Statistics of Farmers' Marketing and Purchasing Cooperatives, 1947-48" by Grace Wanstall ask Information and Extension Division, Farm Credit Administration, to send you Miscellaneous Report No. 137.

### Western X of peach trees

Our entomologists, working with those of the Washington Agricultural Experiment Station, have shown that a leafhopper carries the virus causing western X disease of peach trees. For more details on this write the editor of *USDA* (name and address in last column, back page) and ask for No. 1871.

### Thomason to Ceylon

J. M. Thomason, veteran agricultural extension leader of Arkansas, has gone to Ceylon to represent the USDA in Ceylon's agricultural improvement program. He will give special assistance to Ceylon's Ministry of Agriculture in rural educational work aimed at increasing crop production.

### Harvest your own timber

Forest Service's Southeastern Forest Experiment Station at Asheville, N. C., using equipment available to the average farmer, grossed \$13,770 or \$11.36 an acre from a 303-acre woods, 1946-49, by doing its own cutting, logging, and hauling. Had the timber been sold as stumpage gross returns would have been only \$3,910 or \$3.23 per acre.

### U. S. and Korea

"United States Policy in the Korean Crisis" is the name of a new and authoritative publication from the Department of State. Procure from its Division of Publications, Office of Public Affairs, or send 25 cents to the Superintendent of Documents in Washington; ask for Publication 3922, Far Eastern Series 34.

### Mustang released

This has nothing to do with letting a horse out of pasture. Instead the USDA and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station have announced the release of a new oat variety that is approximately 25 percent more winter-hardy than commercial varieties commonly grown in Texas, and it is Mustang. For more details write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1875.

### Real property

Secretary's Memorandum 1263, July 21, deals with the acquisition, utilization, and disposition of real property. If you want a copy phone or write Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA.

### Frozen food transport

"Marketing Frozen Foods—Facilities and Methods," by J. Stanford Larson, James A. Mixon, and E. Clinton Stokes, is a processed publication available from Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration.

### Wool from the deeper South

There is available at the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations a report on the Movement of Wool from the Southern Hemisphere; you may obtain it by writing there, phoning Ext. 2445, or calling by 5922S. Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, Uruguay, and the Union of South Africa produce more than 80 percent of the world's wool and about 90 percent of that which enters international trade.

### Public administration at war

"What We Learned in Public Administration During the War" is a new processed, paper-bound book available from the USDA Graduate School at \$1 a copy. It consists of lectures by eight men all of whom played an important role during the war, principally in Government. It is an excellent study of major administrative problems and developments during the war and the lessons we may draw from them for peacetime administration.

### Cotton entomologist dead

Floyd Frank Bondy, an authority on cotton insects who was in charge of cotton insect research and surveys for Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in Virginia and the Carolinas, died July 19, after 33 years of service, aged 56. A native of Louisiana he attended Poydras Academy, then took his B. S. at Louisiana State, specializing in entomology. He has been stationed at the Pee Dee Experiment Station, Florence, S. C., since 1928, before which he was at our cotton insect field laboratory in Tallulah, La., from 1917.

### Teaching the young about co-ops

FCA's Circular E-33 "Future Farmers and Co-ops" is a reprint of articles that have appeared in News for Farmer Cooperatives. Its 32 pages show how young people learn the principles of cooperation by taking part in cooperative activities and by actually operating their own co-ops. Vocational agriculture classes, FFA, and the cooperatives themselves are the sponsors. A copy of this publication can be had by calling Ext. 3520. Field people: Write Division of Information and Extension, Farm Credit Administration, USDA.

### Tractor longevity

Tractors are living longer. Studies by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics show that 96 percent of the wheel tractors made in 1938 were still operating a decade later, while only 15 percent of those made in 1933 had gone out of service. The great bulk of these machines vanished from farms only 16 to 22 years after purchase and tractor longevity has increased 50 percent since 1941. Rubber tires on current models reduce vibration and prolong life. No hormone injections have been used, we are reliably informed. Used machines are in good demand by small-farm operators.

### TDE and Jap beetle

"Effectiveness of TDE Against the Japanese Beetle" is the title of processed publication E-804 by Walter E. Fleming and Warren W. Maines. Get it directly from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine.

### Corn earworm control

"DDT Sprays for Control of the Corn Earworm and the Budworm in Sweet Corn" is a processed publication that you may procure from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine by requesting E-780 revised.

### Liss on loan

Samuel Liss of the budget division, Farmers Home Administration, has started work with the President's Commission on Migratory Labor on a 6-months loan basis. He expects to conduct hearings on labor matters in several western cities later in the summer and fall.

### Value of research

One new berry plant created at the Western Washington Experiment Station alone added 15 million dollars to the wealth of that State during the past decade, according to station Superintendent J. W. Kalkus. But in relaying the information by press release the information staff at Puyallup leaves us to guess what kind of berry this was! Strawberry, maybe?

### Fruit packing houses—locker plant kitchens

Special Bulletin No. 362 from the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station at East Lansing is "Fruit Packing Houses, Plans and Operations" and No. 364 is "Fruit and Vegetable Processing Kitchens for Locker Plants." They are joint publications with Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and W. M. Hurst and J. H. Levin of that Bureau are coauthors.

### Cotton research evaluation

Dr. Leonard Smith and George Buck of the National Cotton Council of America have been appointed collaborators with the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry. They will assist in planning a more effective research program on cotton utilization, carried on at the Bureau's Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans. For more details write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 1852.

### Bees and alfalfa seed

One of the first articles ever published dealing with the direct quantitative relationships between bee population and the production of alfalfa seed and honey will be found in the June-July issue of What's New in Crops and Soils, published by the American Society of Agronomy from 2702 Monroe Street, Madison 5, Wis. Entitled "Seedsmen and Beemen. Who Should Pay Whom?" it reports work done in Kansas by C. O. Grandfield, an agronomist with Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

### New Forest Service publications

"Management of Natural Slash Pine Stands in the Flatwoods of South Georgia and North Florida," Circular No. 845, by R. D. McCulley of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, Asheville, N. C., is a 57-page illustrated booklet which you may obtain free from Forest Service. It reports experiments carried on by FS at the Olustee Experimental Forest, Fla. If interested in how forests help control floods you may want A. I. B. No. 10, "How Forest Conditions Affected the 1948 Columbia Flood." This FS bulletin may be obtained for 10 cents from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.



## Frozen foods

"The Market Information Needed on Frozen Foods," is a processed report of a Research and Marketing Act study by J. Stanford Larson, Walter S. Adams, and James A. Mixon. Procure it from Marketing Facilities and Research Branch, Production and Marketing Administration.

## Winning titles

Recently the Library managed to borrow for the editor of *USDA* a copy of an old book published by Simon & Schuster, New York City, in 1928: "The First Hundred Million," by E. Haldeman-Julius. It contains a great deal of helpful information for any writer in Government or outside, especially about titles. Indeed the whole book merits more than cursory reading if you can get hold of it second-hand or through your library. A word to the wise is sufficient.

## Tung soils

Since the first commercial tung orchard was planted in Florida in 1924 there has been gradual expansion to 166,000 acres in tung from east Texas to the Atlantic. *USDA* circular No. 840 by Matthew Drosdoff gives information on the kinds of soil which produce the highest yields, and yields of 2 to 2½ tons of air-dry tung nuts per acre are possible on such soils with good management. Orchards on sandy soils in Florida have not produced as well as those on heavier soils.

## Frozen orange juice

"Consumer Buying Practices for Selected Fresh Fruits, Canned and Frozen Juices, and Dried Fruits, Related to Family Characteristics, Region, and City Size," and "Regional Distribution and Types of Stores Where Consumers Buy Selected Fresh Fruits, Canned and Frozen Juices, and Dried Fruits," are two processed reports of studies made under the Research and Marketing Act. They are available from Production and Marketing Administration and Bureau of Agricultural Economics, responsible jointly for the investigations.

## Publications

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1474, "Stain Removal From Fabrics," by Margaret S. Furry of Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics is in new supply; featuring home methods of stain removal it is one of *USDA*'s most popular publications. \* \* \* "Pumping for Irrigation" is a new processed publication from SCS by Ivan D. Wood, popular author of the very popular address on Public Speaking we offered some months ago—and of which we still have a few copies if you missed out before. \* \* \* "Cooking With Dried Whole Eggs" is a brief processed publication also from HNHE. Procure as you do other printed publications; the editor of *USDA* does not stock them.

## "Readable Writing"

This is the title of a new book from the Macmillan Co., New York City, by Eric M. Steel, a professor of English, priced at \$2.75. The author shows how a story or article progresses from stilted and dull to vivid and readable by making pieces of writing acquire the latter characteristics before your very eyes. He also has valuable and useful things to say about finding, using, and evaluating information, including practical instructions on the utilization of library facilities. He discusses words, sentences, paragraphs, punctuation, grammar, spelling, and good usage informatively and readably. Better look this book over; it is almost bound to help you. Professor Steel has much to impart and he knows how to say it.

## "Never Marry a Ranger"

This is the title of a book by Roberta McConnell, from Prentice-Hall, New York City, at \$2.75 a copy. Roberta is the ranger's wife and a forest ranger he is. Described as "hilarious entertainment from start to finish," the book is said to make "metropolitan life seem peaceful, untroubled, and downright Arcadian." For further information read the book or consult some forest ranger's wife.

## Dr. Hoover dead

Dr. George W. Hoover, who helped write the original Food and Drugs Act of 1906, died in Washington July 27, aged 75. A native of Ohio, he came to Washington to work in Dr. Harvey W. Wiley's old Bureau of Chemistry in 1904 and served also with his famous "poison squad." He retired as chief of drug control in 1929 and became a successful private industry consultant. He was educated at Oklahoma A & M and at George Washington.

## Cottonseed loader

Our engineers at the United States Cotton Ginning Laboratory, Stoneville, Miss., have developed a new portable pneumatic loader to meet an acute need of the cotton industry. It facilitates the handling of cottonseed to and from storage at gins and in cottonseed-handling plants. It was designed by Gerald N. Franks in a Research and Marketing Act project and, under test, handled cottonseed at a rate of 5 tons per hour. For more details write Press Service, *USDA*, and ask for No. 1862.

## Let's see your house organ

Agencies, divisions, local units, Washington, D. C., or field: Please be good enough to put the editor of *USDA* (name and address at end of the last column as always) on the mailing list to get whatever house organ you issue that is produced out of hours and at no expense to the Government, or any regular administrative or other letters that will give him news. He has no travel funds. Though there are five or six of you in the field to one in Washington, he has no effective way of procuring field news. Please help him this way.

## Feed production in the South

Dr. Robert M. Salter, chief of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, made another of his fact-packed addresses July 31, at Raleigh, N. C. His basic proposition was that research progress with feed crops in the South suggests that farmers there may in time be able to grow enough feed to support three times their present livestock numbers. For a digest of this speech write the editor of *USDA* (name and address in last column back page) and ask for No. 1854. If you want the complete text, ask for No. 1855.

## Point 4 costs

The Food and Agriculture Organization reports that it cost only \$10,000 for test plantings of hybrid corn varieties in Europe leading to spectacular increases in yield. For \$5,000 FAO distributed and exchanged more than 300 varieties of seeds and plant material among more than 40 countries, many resistant to drought or disease or especially suitable for particular soils. For the same sum its experts advised on modern irrigation principles and practices when Ecuador reconstructed irrigation systems destroyed by earthquake. For \$60,000 it helped underdeveloped countries use vaccines to eradicate rinderpest, which slays more than 2 million farm animals annually the world over, and Thailand is free from the disease for the first time in many years.

## Foot-and-mouth in Venezuela

If interested in the outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in Venezuela write the editor of *USDA* (use address in last column, last page) and request No. 1869.

## Commodity futures speculation

The Commodity Exchange Authority has issued a report on current speculation in commodity futures. If interested in it, get it from CEA; if interested in the Secretary's statement on the report, write Press Service, *USDA*, and ask for No. 1900.

## PMA personnel officer

Merrill Collett is the new personnel officer for Production and Marketing Administration. He is a Navy veteran who conducted personnel studies for Public Administration Service in Chicago. He transferred here from Bonneville Power Administration where he was personnel chief.

## Missouri River Basin

We have copies of the statement Secretary Brannan made August 1 before the House Committee on Agriculture on the Missouri River Basin Agricultural Program. If you want a copy write the editor of *USDA* (see last column, last page for name and address) and ask for No. 1846.

## Lee Marshall dead

Lee Marshall, who became head of the Food Distribution Administration, WFA, in February 1944, died in New York August 1, aged 66. He was at death chairman of the board of Continental Baking Corp. and chairman of the American Bakers Association. He also served during the war in the War Production Board, as director of materials and facilities for WFA, sat as WFA's representative many times on the Combined Food Board, and was an officer of Commodity Credit Corporation. A Missouri farm boy, Mr. Marshall began his career as a flour broker, then became vice president of the Campbell Baking Co., and later held executive positions with other corporations before joining Continental as vice president in 1926.

## New typewriter type face

A. R. Sabin of Bureau of Agricultural Economics has been experimenting with a new design for typewriter type that permits a maximum of strikeover possibilities with a minimum of change in conventional shape of the characters. This should be a great boon to hunt-and-push experts like the editor, but one key carrying an elusive blur resembling several letters should be retained to be used in words one does not know how to spell, and this one can't spell worth 2 cents. Based on a tabulation of over 63,000 typing errors compiled by a University of Pittsburgh professor, Sabin estimates his type face would permit perfect strikeover correction in 11 percent of all lower-case typing errors. He has filed an application for a patent on this type face.

## August 30, 1950 Vol. IX, No. 18

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 1950

## FCA's loans

FARMERS AND their co-ops borrowed 1½ billion dollars from institutions and associations under supervision of Farm Credit Administration in the year ended June 30, 1950. They increased their investment in the capital stock of this cooperative credit system some 8 million dollars. On June 30, 1950, their capital stock ownership totaled 141 million dollars. Farmers in the year used 968 million dollars in loans from Production Credit Associations, which was 11 million more than in the 1949 fiscal year. This money went for operating purposes such as for gas and oil, fertilizer, labor, seed, feed, hired labor, taxes, and insurance. At the year's end 134 PCA's were completely member-owned compared with 53 a year ago.

Some 43,500 farmers borrowed 199 million dollars from the 12 Federal Land Banks through 1,200 National Farm Loan Associations. Farmers on June 30 to the number of 308,798 were using land bank loans totaling 931 million, an increase of 5,231 farmers and 51 million dollars from a year ago. Farmers' co-operatives borrowed 373 million dollars from the 13 Banks for Cooperatives and the number of cooperatives borrowing from these banks increased 13 percent in the year. However, they borrowed fewer dollars because their peak credit needs of the two previous years had leveled off. The 12 Federal Intermediate Credit Banks supplied most of the 968 million dollars loaned by the Production Credit Associations and 126 million of that loaned by the Banks for Cooperatives. In addition, they discounted 161 million dollars worth of farmers' notes for agricultural credit corporations, live-stock loan companies, and commercial banks, and loaned 8 million directly to farmer cooperatives.

## The police

THE OFFICE of Compliance and Investigation, Production and Marketing Administration, has the job of policing agricultural programs involving billions of dollars annually. The responsibility of its relatively small staff of highly trained investigators is to guard against irregularities and violations of law in connection with all price support operations, as well as marketing agreement, agricultural conservation, and other PMA programs. While the percentage of irregularities compared with total transactions is extremely small, it is important that they be curbed. Typical of the cases investigated are: Forgery of warehouse receipts and other documents, negligence of contracting warehousemen in protecting Government inventories from damage, theft of Government-owned commodities in storage, violation of marketing-quota regulations, concealment of inferior commodities in preparing them for inspection, false claims for payments under the agricultural conservation program, and failure to pay delinquent loans.

Last year investigation of 1,377 cases resulted in fines, recovery of money fraudulently obtained from the Government, and other collections and savings totaling more than \$850,000. Of greater importance was the effect of the work in discouraging further violations and bringing about a higher degree of respect for and compliance with agricultural programs and regulations. The PMA investigators, who operate out of five regional offices, do not make arrests. Their responsibility is to collect the evidence needed as a basis for making arrests and prosecuting offenders. Evidence which appears to warrant court action is passed on through the Office of the Solicitor to the Department of Justice.

## Cash awards

MANY USDA employees have received cash awards for their suggestions during the past several months. Space does not permit a summary of each suggestion, however, summaries are presented of suggestions for which more than \$100 was awarded.

John W. Kirk, Production and Marketing Administration, Washington, D. C., suggested that the USDA-PMA Freight Billing Guide and the Bureau of Animal Industry Products Purchase Specification Manuals be sent to the General Accounting Office to provide information on meat shipments instead of preparing separate "Information Requests." He received \$330. Louis Baker, PMA, Washington, D. C., received \$435 for suggesting the centralization of the Market News Leased Wire teletype network and the Shipping and Storage Branch teletype system for handling messages under one operating head; that all telegrams or messages both in the field and in Washington be delivered at one office; and that employees of both groups be trained where needed so that the personnel might be equipped and available for work in either type of activity.

Carl F. Turvey, Office of Information, Washington, D. C., received \$500 for inventing a motion picture device that was installed on black-and-white motion picture-printing machines so that they could be utilized to make color prints on a production-release basis, that is, in quantities up to 300 prints.

Max R. Kimble, Bureau of Animal Industry, San Antonio, Tex., received \$200 for constructing a device to measure the length of the horse trail each range rider patrolled to prevent the entry from Mexico of any animals or animal by-products that might be the carriers of the virus of foot-and-mouth disease being introduced into the United States.

Tom Bradley, Soil Conservation Service, Zanesville, Ohio, received \$200 for developing a five-row transplanter which increased the number of seedlings that could be planted per day with fewer man-hours of labor.

E. J. Parkinson, SCS, Great Falls, Mont., received \$175 for developing a new method for making basic surveys in land leveling.

*Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.*—George T. Hamner, New Orleans, La., \$50; Leander A. Smith, New Orleans, La., \$10; Frank Welser, New Orleans, La., \$25; Ariel A. Anderson, Albany, Calif., \$50; Arline H. Greenan, Peoria, Ill., \$10.



*Agricultural Research Center.*—Irvin Daniels, Beltsville, Md., \$50.

*Bureau of Animal Industry.*—Ruth L. Landers and W. A. Carrigan, South St. Joseph, Mo., each received \$15; Charles R. Field, Fort Branch, Ind., \$25; Eugene C. Roth, Seattle, Wash., \$25; Louis P. M. Rider, Kingston, N. C., \$25; Mary J. Hayden, Washington, D. C., \$50; Dr. John A. Carlsen, Omaha, Nebr., \$75, and \$100 for two separate suggestions; Samuel Kelsall III, Memphis, Tenn., \$25; H. L. Marple, Wichita, Kans., \$25; John T. Yost, St. Louis, Mo., \$30; Antoinette E. Jentzen and Catherine S. Liberator, Washington, D. C., \$30; Andrew L. McBride, Omaha, Nebr., \$25; George H. Lysaght, Boston, Mass., \$100.

*Office of Experiment Stations.*—Edward P. Hume, Mayaguez, P. R., \$10; A. J. Loustalot and R. H. Hageman, Mayaguez, P. R., each received \$10; Harold F. Winters, Mayaguez, P. R., \$25.

*Office of Information.*—Lols I. Bruce, Washington, D. C., \$30.

*Farmers Home Administration.*—Bess Wilder McKee, Denver, Colo., \$15; Genevieve T. Gallagher, Chehalis, Wash., and Vernon S. Nafus, Polson, Mont., each received \$10; George L. Bass, Columbia, S. C., \$20; Mary E. Skidmore, Dallas, Tex., Roscoe H. Miller, Spencer, Iowa, Donald J. Kudrna, Ontario, Oreg., each received \$10; Gussie L. Herndon, Troy, Ala., \$15; Margaret Bayse, Indianapolis, Ind., \$10; Le Roy T. Milbourn, Albuquerque, N. Mex., \$10; Kenneth R. Bower, Creston, Iowa, \$20; Hazel L. Kirk, Zanesville, Ohio, \$10; Rosalind S. Lusk, Little Rock, Ark., \$25; Alice N. Wagner, Indianapolis, Ind., \$10; Richard C. Sare, Indianapolis, Ind., \$10; Juanita S. Fleming, Bozeman, Mont., \$10; Helen U. Butler, Hugo, Okla., \$10; Harold D. Gray, Indianapolis, Ind., \$10; Sara D. Pierce, Dallas, Tex., \$50; Ada E. Grosenbaugh, Denver, Colo., \$65; Calvin M. Frazee, Denver, Colo., \$10; Margaret M. Morris, Bushnell, Fla., \$15; Genevieve C. Ahern, St. Paul, Minn., \$10; Angel Castro Aguirre, San Juan, P. R., \$10; George W. Scott, Dallas, Tex., \$10; Houston E. Richey, Dallas, Tex., \$10; Courtney Cage, San Antonio, Tex., \$60; W. L. Buckley, Denver, Colo., \$20.

*Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.*—Morris S. Hill, Washington, D. C., \$10; L. Elvis Albright, Clarksville, Tenn., \$50; Dorothy M. Rhodes, Pauline W. Berrum, Josephine A. Mannion, Margaret A. Palmer, La Rue F. Jordan, and Nellie W. Sorey, all of Washington, D. C., received \$20 each for a joint suggestion.

*Forest Service.*—Raymond J. Tesnor, Columbus, Ohio, \$10.

*Office of Personnel.*—William W. Brown, Washington, D. C., \$10.

*Production and Marketing Administration.*—Larrel E. Sullivan and Mary O. Sinclair, Dallas, Tex., each received \$25; Morris Saunders, Washington, D. C., \$20; Pasquale Ciccone, Washington, D. C., \$55; Ralph F. De Simone, Washington, D. C., \$60; Adele B. Keating, San Francisco, Calif., \$70; Davis H. Wilson, Washington, D. C., \$10; Lorraine F. Bambarger, San Francisco, Calif., \$10; Ralph F. De Simone, Washington, D. C., \$20; Tanya S. O'Berry, San Francisco, Calif., \$65; Frank J. Dewald, Jr., Washington, D. C., \$20; Theresa Di Girolamo, New York, N. Y., \$70; Samuel Crandell, San Francisco, Calif., \$10; R. M. McDaniel, Virgie P. Mosley, and Juanita B. Paulin, Washington, D. C., each received \$20; Frank Cunningham, Washington, D. C., \$10; Louise G. Burke, Washington, D. C., \$30; Bertha M. Weichold, Washington, D. C., \$10; Jane H. De Boskey, Washington, D. C., \$10; Stephen G. Benit, Dallas, Tex., \$85; Louise G. Burke, Washington, D. C., \$10; William G. Means, Washington, D. C., \$40; James P. Armstrong, Washington, D. C., \$15; Virgie P. Mosley, Washington, D. C., \$10; Elmer C. House, Washington, D. C., \$50; Laurie A. Hancock, Thomasville, Ga., \$10; Tokiko A. Kawaguchi, San Francisco, Calif., \$10; John P. Janus, Chicago, Ill., \$15; Maurice J. Lynch, Kansas City, Mo., \$10; Mildred

L. Harris, Washington, D. C., \$35; Curtis W. Peck, Washington, D. C., \$15; Evelyn R. Mitchell, Atlanta, Ga., \$10; Donald J. Porter, Chicago, Ill., \$10; Helen H. Mehrwin, Kansas City, Mo., \$10; Evelyn L. Lyle, Washington, D. C., \$10; Milton B. Brown, Chicago, Ill., \$55; G. Wallace Templeton, Omaha, Nebr., \$25; Howell J. Starr, Washington, D. C., \$10.

*Soil Conservation Service.*—Elmer E. Turnage, Spartanburg, S. C., \$20; Robert W. Andrews, Spartanburg, S. C., \$100; Walter E. Guenther, Colfax, Wash., and Ira F. Clark, St. John, Wash., \$50 each; Clayton E. Robb, Colorado Springs, Colo., \$20; Nellie G. Heath, Portland, Oreg., \$10; Edward J. Parkinson, Great Falls, Mont., \$25; James J. O'Brien, Upper Darby, Pa., \$75; Harold Luke, Huron, S. Dak., \$10.

## USDA and YOU

A YOUNG and relatively new employee who, however, thoughtfully signed his name, wrote the editor recently that *USDA* is not as interesting as most other private and governmental house organs. His sole specific complaint was that the book "reviews" in *USDA* were inferior to those in the Saturday Review of Literature and the Book Review of the New York Times. He hesitated to say more because he felt unqualified. He believed also that all criticism should be "constructive."

*USDA* is not an employee house organ. Its aim is to be a readable *employee news bulletin* that provides you with information you want or need to become a better public servant. It can never be as glamorous or garish as many of the attractive house organs issued by private concerns which know their value and finance them lushly. *USDA* must operate on a very limited budget indeed, and it cannot use many types of material—news of marriages, vacations, social events, parties, etc.—real house organs regularly publish. It does not publish book reviews. It does briefly notice certain books written by *USDA* staff members or which should be of assistance to them.

However all criticism, especially adverse criticism, is constructive. Each of you individual readers is fully qualified to express your opinion of *USDA*. Just write the editor, being as severe as you please, and sign your name. Nothing bad will happen to you, but he will try to heed your suggestions and improve *USDA*. If *USDA* does not give you the kind of information you want and need, and in readable form, it is a waste of public funds to print and distribute. It should be abolished, and its editor reassigned, retired, or fired. Open up on *USDA* as you wish, for praise or blame, but try to be specific. The editor free-lanced for over 35 years and is wholly immune to digs and abuse.

## Trainees from afar

INCREASING responsibility of USDA for the training of foreign visitors has led to the establishment within Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of an Education and Training Division. Headed by Douglas Enslinger, formerly head of Extension Service's education research section, it will integrate our relations with land-grant institutions and others cooperating in agricultural training of foreign visitors. It will also unify USDA's own training operations. Under a recent new agreement with the Economic Cooperation Administration, the Department will participate to a larger degree in the training of visitors who come to this country for special study under ECA's technical assistance program.

The flow of foreign visitors to the United States for agricultural training has been increasing steadily in recent years, and is expected to continue to do so. When the trainee program started 8 years ago, only a few hundred came. The total rose to more than 500 in 1945-46, to 937 in 1946-47, to 1,091 in 1948-49, and to 1,300 in 1949-50. The 1950-51 total will be even larger. Over 60 countries are represented annually, with most visitors coming from Europe, with Asia next, followed by Latin America, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, and Canada. These visitors vary in age and occupation from farm youths to ministers of agriculture and heads of state, with professional agriculturists in the majority. Formal training is carried out through cooperation of *USDA* agencies, land-grant institutions, farmers, farm organizations, and private industries serving agriculture. These trainees return to their own countries to assume leadership of agricultural programs which raise living levels, improve economic stability, and stimulate democratic processes.

For more on this program see Secretary's Memorandum No. 1265, August 1, which you may get from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, *USDA*, by writing, phoning, or stopping by.

### TELEVISION REPORT

Radio and Television Service, Office of Information, has issued the first of its three reports on television research under the Research and Marketing Act. This is "Television Report, Section I—Films." Later reports will deal with visual aids and program methods. The films report is a 22-page mimeographed publication covering the uses of film on television, experimental films, the use of existing films, new films for television, clearances, what the *USDA* has done, and the distribution of *USDA* films.



## It takes an artist

YOU NO DOUBT have often seen cans of food that bore on their labels the fact they were packed under continuous inspection by the USDA. You have also seen such foods graded by USDA. The Processed Products Standardization and Inspection Division, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, PMA, attends to that. The first standards were initiated in 1926 under the United States Warehouse Act; then a Fruit and Vegetable Division was set up in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Today the Division in Production and Marketing Administration has 337 employees. Last fiscal year it inspected over 104 million cases of canned fruit and vegetables, 686 million pounds of frozen, nearly 500 million pounds of dried, and 43 million pounds of dehydrated fruits and vegetables, and 41 million pounds of other processed products. This cost \$1,385,659.21 but, as it is done on fee, it brought in \$1,343,124.23, hence is nearly self-supporting.

The Division makes cooperative agreements with State agencies, Extension, and processing and trade associations. Its offices are widely scattered and it has 32 labs in constant operation. It carries on continuous inspection in 127 plants owned by 102 companies. It also does much work for the National Military Establishment, Veterans Administration, Department of Justice, and PMA itself. It does continuous research on the development of new and the revision of old standards. It aids its inspectors in the interpretation of these standards and, last year, to this end it added an artist to its staff to make paintings, drawings, models, and carvings for illustrating color, defects, shape, size, and other quality factors in processed fruits and vegetables.

Miss Eleanor Cox, a former student of Corcoran Art School who specialized in sculpture, does this artistic work using as models actual samples of processed fruits and vegetables. During her first year she had made some 1,800 such models. This requires some doing. For instance, her exhibit of pear halves comes in three sets for Fancy, Standard, and Substandard. There were 18 pear halves in the 3 sets, she had to make 32 sets, one for each of the field labs, and this, if our constitutionally feeble arithmetic is not tricking us, means modeling and painting 576 pear halves to show desirable and undesirable shape and trim. In the same way she makes models of canned potatoes and sweetpotatoes, of canned diced carrots and canned cherries. Peas

and corn are coming up. Diced carrots are carved from bits of wood and properly colored, again to show the right size and shape for various grades.

Miss Cox is also a realistic portrait painter. Her models hold still, too. She has done on parchment and in oils some of the most lifelike representations you ever saw of broccoli, brussels sprouts, pimientos, and sweetpotatoes. These also are shown at various stages of maturity and, as the color is fixed, they, along with models, enable the inspector to tell what he is about. Incidentally, the canned cherries mentioned above show the point at which the seed was removed and, if the seeder went right on through, the blemish on the other side is shown, and that isn't so good. Finally, the artist has built up a slice of pineapple between plexiglas that looks so natural you'd swear the juice was dripping out of it. She works in an attractive gray room in an old building on Twelfth Street and to all appearances just loves her work. She still finds time to work at sculpture in her own studio, and has exhibited in two shows this spring, taking first prize at one of them.

## Straight from the soil

YOU'RE MISSING something if you don't see those unique and stimulating annual reports of the Soil Conservation districts. Whether slick-paper jobs or plain mimeographs they all depict people proudly saving soil and using USDA facilities to get the job done all over the United States. Moreover, they get real joy out of what they are doing in those 2,260 districts. District supervisors, themselves farmers, keep the records of the year's accomplishments and problems, and prepare these many reports from many communities, addressing them directly to the neighbors they serve. No Federal or State money is used to publish them, though local business concerns often finance publication and distribution—everybody from bank to bakery and back being glad to help. Many of the older, stronger districts finance printed reports out of their own funds, sometimes in tens of thousands of copies. Local newspapers often print entire reports as news stories.

They are news! Their intimacy and friendliness makes them different and fascinating. The slogan on the front cover of the latest report from Van Buren County Soil Conservation District, smallest in Tennessee, reads: "Our Soil—The Heritage of the Nation—With the Right to Use Goes the Duty to Conserve!" The 12-year-old Brown-Mar-

shall District in South Dakota, winner of the 1949 Soil and Moisture Achievement Program award, announces: "In 1949 WE practiced crop residue management on 104,229 acres, strip cropping on 56,297 acres, turned under 3,575 acres of green manure, held an annual dinner for over 300 cooperators, leveled 450 acres of wind-blown land." The Sauvie Island District, Oreg., reported as early as 1947 that "every farm within its boundaries is now covered by a written conservation farm plan," and there have been others since. The report from the Mills County District, Iowa, sports a color-photo cover, cartoons by Felix Summers of the SCS regional office in Milwaukee, and tells a great story of work accomplished in this rich bread-basket area.

Then there's the eight-county Coosa River District, Ga., which says in its 1949 report: "Many tools are available for doing the best job of soil and water conservation. \* \* \* Among the most important are the various paid workers who serve rural people. These are the agricultural workers, including county agents \* \* \* the technicians furnished by the Soil Conservation Service; teachers of vocational agriculture; public school teachers, preachers, PMA administrators, FFA supervisors; forest rangers, game wardens; and county officials. Some people may say there are too many of these workers but there is work enough for twice as many as we have. It has been said that their duties overlap but they do not. Each has a separate job and it all blends into one program for farm people. The representatives of these agencies work together in harmony if the people participate intelligently in the program."

## TO GET PRINTED PUBLICATIONS

You secure printed publications as follows: *Washington employees* can best get printed publications at Room 104A, to the right as you enter the Administration Building. *Field employees* address: Inquiries and Distribution Service, Division of Publications, Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. *Extension workers*: Clear your order through State publication distribution officers when you want 50 or more copies of one publication; address other orders to Division of Extension Information, Extension Service, USDA, Washington 25, D. C. Please do not ask the editor of USDA for such publications as he has no stock of them. *He stocks only items for which you are told to write—not telephone—the editor of USDA.* (These instructions appeared in USDA, the Employee News Bulletin, for October 10, 1949, January 16, 1950, and April 10, 1950.)



## Puerto Rico and Point 4

WHEN THE PRESIDENT announced his Point-4 Program it was natural for Puerto Rico to have a proportionately large part in the training side, or "showing others how to do it." Because of its convenient crossroads location between the Americas, the similarity of its peoples and conditions to those of Latin American countries, and the progressive economic programs already going on there, the Island makes a good demonstration "classroom." It has been used as one this summer to show one of those programs—that of the Farmers Home Administration.

In June, eight high Government and bank officials of Venezuela spent nearly a week in Puerto Rico to get first-hand information on all phases of the FHA work, and to learn more about methods of assisting family-type farmers so as to better apply them in their own country. These officials spent most of their time touring typical FHA farms and enterprises to observe better farming, better housing, and improved standards of living. They also held group and individual discussions of the agency's activities, and considered small-farmer problems common to Venezuela. FHA State Director C. C. Stubbs invited representatives of other agricultural agencies to attend the informal round-tables in the San Juan office briefly to describe their own programs so as better to round out the picture and show how different agency activities are integrated. For the past several years, a supervised credit program modeled after that of FHA, and headed up by former employees of that agency or its predecessors, has been operated in Venezuela. Since it early proved so successful it is now being expanded.

As another example of Puerto Rican participation in the Point-4 Program, the Island's FHA home economist, Miss Sarah Rodriguez-Chacon, helped the University of Puerto Rico faculty members plan and conduct a 6-week training program during June and July for 12 women rural social workers from British colonies of the Caribbean area and localities as far away as Australia and South Africa. Miss Rodriguez assisted by giving talks and leading discussions on FHA methods with families, and arranging tours to borrower farms on the Island. (From observations made in Puerto Rico by Frances Fox of FHA's Washington office.)

## Backward look

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO English-born Thomas Ewbank was Commissioner of Patents and, as such, was in charge of Federal aid to agriculture then carried on in the Department of the Interior. At the direction of the Secretary of the Interior a "practical and scientific agriculturist," Dr. Daniel Lee, had been hired to attend this work. Ewbank omitted agricultural statistics from the annual agricultural report because he thought those already published were inaccurate and he asked Congress and the State legislatures to devise methods of collecting accurate agricultural statistics worth printing. Daniel Lee received a salary of \$2,000, which was later reduced to \$1,500. He headed his report to Ewbanks: "Statistics and Progress of Agriculture in the United States."

Lee was a great advocate of soil conservation. He told how farmers had repeatedly but vainly begged State legislatures and the Federal Congress for small appropriations to prevent soil impoverishment. He wrote: "Neither the earnest recommendation of the illustrious farmer of Mount Vernon nor the prayers of two generations of agriculturalists, nor the painful fact that nearly all tilled lands were becoming less and less productive, could induce any legislature to foster the study of agriculture as a science." He cited 100 million acres of partly exhausted soil then in the United States. His annual reports abounded in recitations of lost soil fertility and what must be done about it to save American agriculture.

In 1875 there had been a Department of Agriculture with bureau status since 1862. It was then headed by a commissioner and Frederick Watts held the office. Watts had been primarily a railroad man but had long engaged in scientific farming. He had experimented with farm buildings of various types and had also organized farm societies. He was the first head of the Department to give attention to our timber supply. When he took office USDA consisted of Divisions of Chemistry, Horticulture, Entomology, Statistics, Seeds, and Botany.

Commissioner Watts established a Division of Microscopy with the remarkable scientist, Thomas Taylor, in charge. He appointed the famous statistician J. R. Dodge to office. He complained that current salaries of \$1,200 to \$1,800 a year would not attract top agricultural workers to the Department. The Department then expended about 200 thousand dollars annually. Watts' report for 1875—

## "Family Fare" scares her!

ONE OF the nicest reviews we've read of USDA's new cookbook, *Family Fare*, is by Anna May Wilson in a recent number of the magazine *Today's Health*. Says Mrs. Wilson: "Family Fare, the new Home and Garden Bulletin published by the United States Department of Agriculture, has me scared. For 25 cents any housewife can buy this paper-bound book from the United States Government Printing Office, and in it she can read well-chosen words on practically everything I had planned for my department, 'Mrs. Wilson's Kitchen,' for the next year. This could save me a lot of work, but might end my career. My only salvation is the knowledge that since they don't have the four Wilson children at the Department of Agriculture, things do happen in my kitchen that can't happen there." (Editor's note: They tell me, Mrs. Wilson, that unusual things can happen in even the best regulated of food laboratories!)

Continues Mrs. Wilson: "This book should be in the kitchens of all 33,000,000 housewives \* \* \* It will be some time before I've sampled all 152 of the receipts, but the ones I've tried are excellent. They are quite as exciting as those illustrated by beautiful color photographs in the slick magazines. The Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics is to be congratulated on the fine job it has done with *Family Fare*."

### Farmer chemist

While on vacation Herman M. Young, chief of the Procurement-Import Division, Fats and Oils Branch, PMA, brought back an interesting clipping from the *Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph* entitled "Every Farmer a Chemist." The thought is interestingly developed that every farmer supervises one of the greatest chemical processes of all, the production of human food from plants and animals. To prosper he must know the chemistry of his soils and bring food to his plants in the form of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, for, not being mobile, they are unable to go after it. He should also know something of the importance of trace elements and many additional chemical facts.

75 years ago—was terse and routine in nature, though he did record that the Department then received from 200 to 4,000 letters of inquiry daily. The following year he congratulated himself on having handled the Department's accounts with accuracy and fidelity, and returned to private life. The Department then employed about 50 clerks and specialists and some 50 messengers, laborers, and others.



## Improving markets

THE MARKETING and Facilities Research Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, conducts research designed to improve the operations of the private marketing system, working extensively with State agencies and trade groups. The most important fields of its activities include studies to determine how the cost of physical handling in the marketing channel can be reduced through proper use of the right kinds of handling equipment; research to improve transportation, storage, wholesaling, retailing, merchandising, and packaging of farm and food products; studies of market news, grades and standards; and the development of plans for better market facilities. This last sort of investigation is part of the effort over the years to see our vast production research programs matched by research in marketing and distribution.

The existence of good markets and better market facilities reduces both the wholesale and retail costs of handling produce; fosters the gathering together at one point of higher quality products, ultimately enabling consumers to purchase better food for the same or even for less money; and increases the volume sold by farmers, providing them greater income and opportunity for diversification. Efficient market facilities bring buyers and sellers together, lure consumers into buying more, and enable farmers to sell easier and in larger quantities.

Requests come into the Branch from all over the country for studies to develop plans for better marketing facilities. If the local people seem really to be in earnest the Branch makes a thorough study, designs and models a market to scale that would be suitable, and advises how the plan can be put into effect. While this sort of research began in 1935 it only really got under way on anything like the present scale after passage of the Research and Marketing Act in 1946. Yet several of the markets have been built and are operating. Generally speaking savings have been underestimated by the Branch, the markets have had to expand almost immediately, and the plans developed more than lived up to expectations.

### Soaps and detergents

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that in 1949 we used 15 percent less soap each than in 1948. In fact the average per capita use of soap was the smallest in 19 years—not that we were dirtier than usual, however. For there was an increasing shift to synthetic detergents for washing clothing and dishes.

## Cows

YEARS AGO when the editor was close associate of some 30 cows he observed that the facial expression of each animal was unique. Here was one which registered bovine benevolence, another supercilious disdain, another quiet desperation, and yet another the resigned piety of an early Christian martyr. Again, some of the cows quivered nervously when the writer removed a quart of blood from the jugular vein with a cannula; others actually rushed into their stalls, voluntarily assumed the correct position, and apparently enjoyed this operation.

Not long ago Melvin Scholl wrote on "Bovine Psychology" in the *Guernsey Breeders' Journal*. He declared that there was no such thing as a bad cow, but that there is as wide a range in bovine as in human personalities, all the way from quiet docility to fierce antagonism. But cows are ladies and creatures of habit. Study them individually, said Scholl, and you can get along with any of them. You can also control their acquired traits and bend them to your will. Never let a dairy cow know you are afraid of her or she will take full advantage of that information. Cajole her. She has spirit, is not dull and insipid, is worth making into your friend.

It is unnecessary to speak to a cow when you enter her stall. A gentle hand brings recognition. A dairy cow will obey the person she trusts even if she does not fully understand why. Give in to this female and let her have her own way once and a while, just as you do with your spouse. "Cows are really ladies and should be treated as such. Sometimes they have an odd way of showing their femininity, but their actions find their counterpart in the human species." They learn to identify pleasant and unpleasant sounds, like to have names and be called by them. If possible, try to gain the cow's affection and become her center of devotion instead of her calf. That helps most. Then a primal law of nature operates and she will really give milk. Once her maternal instinct is aroused and you replace her calf in her affections you can have any dairy cow's firm loyalty. So says Melvin Scholl.

### German rice-milling

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations has a new report on the rice-milling industry in Germany which you may obtain at room 5922S, by phoning Ext. 2446, or by writing FAR. German rice millers are among the industry's pioneers and the trade has been located almost exclusively in Hamburg and Bremen since its establishment a century ago.

## Liberia and USDA

LIBERIA is a rather pleasant country with a climate something like that of central southern Florida. Claude A. Barnett, special assistant to the Secretary, has just returned from a visit to this country and finds it progressing agriculturally, with former USDA employees as definite factors in accelerating that progress. Founded in 1820, and about the size of Kentucky, Liberia has had severe monetary and educational handicaps. But Negro settlers, largely from the United States, have managed to maintain it as the only sovereign independent nation on the west coast of Africa.

Today, with the farseeing President William V. S. Tubman and his government working closely with various United States missions it is on its way as an agricultural producer and exporter. Oscar Meier, formerly of Rural Electrification Administration, is chief of an economic mission there. Frank E. Pinder, formerly of Farmers Home Administration and earlier a county agent, is chief agricultural production specialist, and has traveled all over the country afoot with head carriers trailing him, firing far interior tribes with a new vision. Great strides have been made in introducing improved methods of growing and processing cocoa, palm trees whose kernels produce palm oil, bananas, and other tropical fruits, and new methods of rice growing.

Liberia grows cocoa equal to the finest on the Gold Coast, and the United States is the greatest user of cocoa in the world; Liberia also has 2½ times as much land suitable for cocoa production as the Gold Coast which now produces half the world's supply. Various American commercial concerns have active interests in cocoa, high-grade rubber trees, iron ore deposits, cold-storage plants, bottling works, and commercial fishing enterprises. Twenty million dollars of Lend-Lease funds were utilized to build the most modern seaport at Monrovia. The costs of construction are to be returned to the United States from port operating reserves. A United States health mission has been working for 6 years to reduce malaria and the maternal death rate in childbirth. President Tubman just now announces that Liberia and its resources are at the disposal of the United Nations in the Korean emergency.

### Antidote for parathion: Atropine

Parathion, used as an insecticide, is highly poisonous. Those using it should follow all prescribed precautions including consulting a physician about toxic symptoms and the use of atropine sulfate as an antidote.



## Short or precise words?

THE SHORT WORD is not always the best word. Sometimes the hackneyed monosyllable is used lazily; the writer is merely too torpid to think up the precise word, long or short. There are omnibus words of more than one syllable that save space. There are precise, though perhaps more rarely used words, that contribute accuracy. Why say "This soup is awful \* \* \* or terrible" when you mean it is insipid? Why use "snooty" when you mean "ostentatious?" When you want to say that a sound is harsh, grating, and shrill all in one, use "strident." Think of the possible synonyms and pick the precise one when you are tempted to use "mad" for "angry"—you may mean resentment, animosity, indignation, vexation, exasperation, but choose the word that fits.

Could you reword the following sentences as briefly without using the precise polysyllables they contain? "The prisoner could neither be coerced nor cajoled into betraying his accomplices." ("They couldn't make the prisoner squeal," suggests a wag!) Or: "The mayor repudiated the debt contracted by his predecessor and deplored the efforts of his enemies to disparage his achievements?" To say "he is devoid of malice" is to be both brief and precise. "Indoctrinate" "invalidate," and "repercussions," are words it is difficult to replace briefly. The same is true of many other words.

To replace "indiscriminate bombing" you would have to say "bombing of men, women, children, houses, factories, hospitals, theaters, libraries, etc., etc." To say "impregnable position" otherwise you would have to say "a position incapable of being captured." Why write "his conduct was the sort of conduct that might have been expected of a woman" when you mean "effeminate?" To replace "inalienable prerogatives" you would have to say something like "rights of which no man can rightfully be deprived," which is much longer. A "gratuitous insult" is an "insult I had done nothing to deserve and which was quite uncalled for," and so on. The short word is not always the best word. It may entangle you in prolixity. It may compel you to sacrifice precision.

## Land values going up

Farm real estate values rose 2 percent in the March-July period. If interested in this subject get from Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, its recent report on "Current Development in the Farm Real Estate Market."

## Dairy research

HUGE QUANTITIES of skim milk, whey, and buttermilk result from the manufacture of dairy products. High in nutrition they tend to be little used as food, but research in the Bureau of Dairy Industry has demonstrated they are valuable and can be used in making soups, ice cream, sherbet, bread, and other baked products.

BDI research has shown how to make excellent Cheddar cheese from pasteurized milk, a method now widely used industrially. Methods are being developed to produce Swiss-type cheese from such milk also. Many State laws which require that pasteurized milk be used in cheese-making render it necessary to have a delicate method of detecting cheese made from raw or unpasteurized milk. BDI has developed one so good that it detects less than one-tenth of 1 percent of raw milk, or underpasteurization to the extent of only 1° F. in the milk used.

Work progresses on preserving fluid or concentrated milk by freezing. Some form of frozen milk may soon be offered the public somewhat as frozen citrus juice is now. Basic problems of fat separation and other structural changes in the product caused by freezing must still be solved though.

Finally BDI is developing a strain of dairy cattle adapted to tropical or subtropical conditions. Red Sindhi (a strain of Brahman cattle native to India which, unlike our cows, can sweat and do) sires are used with domestic Jerseys, Holsteins, and Brown Swiss. It is hoped that Brahman resistance to ill-effects from high temperatures may be transmitted by crossing them with high-producing animals of our dairy breeds. The resulting strains should give milk in good quantity and retain the heat-resistance factor. The first heifers now in milk, a Red Sindhi-Jersey cross, suffer less from the heat than our native cattle and their milk production also declines less in hot weather at Beltsville, Md. (From remarks by Chief O. E. Reed of Bureau of Dairy Industry at the Secretary's Staff Conference, July 6, 1950.)

## Progress among the PCA's

When the Production Credit Associations were organized in 1933-34, practically all their original capital was advanced by the Government. Today a quarter of them, 134 in 38 States, are outright farmer-owned, farmers having purchased sufficient of their stock to retire the Government's investment. Farmer ownership is also advancing in the remainder of our 500 PCA's. As a whole, the Government investment in them all had been reduced from a peak of 90 to a mere 18 million dollars by June 30, 1950.

## Brief but important

### Fruit acreage in Italy

The Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations has available a new free circular on fruit acreage expansion in Italy. To get a copy write FAR, call Ext. 2445, or drop by 5922 S.

### Jarboe's appointment

Joe R. Jarboe, of Tulsa, Okla., prominent in the livestock and feeding business in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, has been appointed by the Secretary to membership on the Foreign Trade Policy Advisory Committee of the USDA.

### Love in Nevada

Dr. Malcolm A. Love, a native of Iowa who took his M. A. and Ph. D. at Iowa State, is the new president of the University of Nevada. He has been serving as dean of arts and science at University of Denver, and succeeds Acting President Gilbert E. Parker in Nevada.

### Tall oil rosin

Production and Marketing Administration has promulgated a standard for tall oil rosin as follows: Rosin remaining after the removal of the fatty acids from tall oil by fractional distillation, and having the characteristic form and appearance and other physical and chemical properties normal for rosin of other kinds.

### Whitaker in Europe

F. H. Whitaker, agricultural economist and cotton marketing specialist from our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, is in Europe studying market outlets for American cotton under the Research and Marketing Act program. Maintaining headquarters at Paris he will travel widely observing and reporting on conditions.

### Arkansas-White-Red River Basins

Pursuant to the President's request of May 19, 1950, the Federal Inter-Agency River Basin Committee has established an Arkansas-White-Red Basins Inter-Agency Committee to implement its purposes. For more details write Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA, or phone Ext. 3337, and ask for Memorandum 1261, July 17, 1950.

### Such language!

In her book, "F. D. R. My Boss," Grace Tully says White House requests for replies to letters would sometimes result in a department shipping in a sentence like this: "Would that circumstances permitted that more favorable consideration could be given to the request noted in your letter of January 3d, instant, but the fact will be appreciated that until further exploratory investigations are undertaken, etc., etc. \* \* \*." In the revision signed by the Boss such sentences became: "My off-the-cuff feeling is that we should wait until the fog clears."

### Andy Hopkins deserts

Up in Wisconsin they say that Andy Hopkins, famed throughout the Nation for his philosophy of agricultural information and his success in training and inspiring agricultural information specialists, has retired. It seems more like desertion. For both intellectually and physically he is the durable ageless variety. Actually he promises to continue teaching and editorial work through June 1951. Here is a man who never became jaded as he aged; he still maintains eager enthusiasm, a youthful viewpoint, and the energy to achieve his objectives. But he has retired as Wisconsin's extension editor.



## Thy speech

"Let thy speech be better than silence— or be silent," said Dionysius the Elder, a thing a large and vocal group of us might well keep in mind.

## Government clerks

Did you know that Lester F. Ward, pioneer American sociologist, was a Federal Government clerk? So was Walt Whitman, the poet, but he got fired!

## Milk products in bakery goods

"Milk Products in Commercial Bakery Goods" is a new processed publication by L. V. Rogers, Division of Dairy Products Research Laboratories, Bureau of Dairy Industry. Get copies directly from BDI; ask for BDIM—Inf—107, July 1950.

## Selective Service

Inquiries come in to Extension Service about its responsibilities in the application of Selective Service regulations. There has been no change to date in policies laid down in the agreement between the USDA and the National Director of Selective Service, November 1948. Local or State offices of Selective Service can provide you with a copy of this agreement.

## Reexamination of programs

A memorandum to heads of Department agencies, dated August 2 and signed by the Secretary, discussed the reexamination of USDA programs in view of the changed international situation. It was accompanied by a letter from the President to the Secretary asking program readjustment. You may procure copies of both from Secretary's Records Section, Office of Plant and Operations, 134W, Ext. 3337.

## New raincoats

Clarice L. Scott and Shirley Johnstone of Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics have designed two new rainwraps, a child's slip-on poncho and a woman's zippered cape-sleeve raincoat. They are lightweight, easy to slip on, give comfortable ventilation and freedom of movement, and may be made of shower-resistant cotton or rainproof plastic film. In them safety, convenience, comfort, economy, and rain protection are combined.

## DDT works while it snows

In the control of snow-water mosquitoes in the high country of the Northwest excellent kills have been obtained with only a half-pound of DDT to the acre, applied the preceding fall. The DDT remains under the cover of snow to prove fatal to newly born wrigglers when the snow melts and the mosquito hatch gets under way for the season. Thus DDT is on the job long before mosquito crews could get into mountain areas in the spring.

## Wade retires

Joseph S. Wade has retired from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine after 37 years of service following 12 years as a volunteer USDA crop correspondent. A native of Kentucky, he grew up on a Kansas farm, attended Fairmont College and Iowa and Chicago Universities, and entered the Bureau of Entomology in 1913 to work on cereal and forage insects. Stationed at first in the Middle West he came to Washington 4 years later. The wide diversity of his interests is indicated by the 567 papers he has published. His latest contribution to be published soon is a comprehensive world bibliography of sugarcane insects and their natural enemies.

## Foreign affairs

"Foreign Affairs Highlights" is an interesting little processed periodical from the Division of Public Liaison, Department of State, Washington 25, D. C.

## Citrus fruit

Agriculture Monograph No. 3, is "Citrus Fruit During World War II," and was prepared by Ben H. Pubels. Get this processed publication from Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## Iowa gets AEC contract

Iowa State College has signed a \$319,000 contract with the Atomic Energy Commission for the investigation of the effects of penetrating radiation upon animals. The work will be conducted under the direction of Iowa State's genetics department.

## Sigler transfers

Lewis A. Sigler has left the Office of the Solicitor to become associate chief counsel for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. A native of Missouri, he graduated from Washington University and was thereafter a Sterling Fellow at Yale, entering old Resettlement Administration in 1935.

## School lunch program

Did you see that article in McCalls for September that put the School Lunch Program in a bad light? If you want the facts, write the editor of *USDA* (address in last column, page 4) and ask for the fact sheet on the School Lunch Program.

## Wise use of wood

Forest Products Laboratory has issued a very beautiful booklet entitled "Toward Wiser Use of Wood," but not at Government expense. This extremely attractive and informative job celebrates the Lab's fortieth anniversary and was paid for and sent to Forest Products Laboratory friends and co-operators, not by the Government, but by the Lab's employees. They did this because they think the history and work of their Lab are worth telling about, even at their own personal expense. They are not bragging. They are proud of the Lab. A limited number of extra copies is available at cost. Address the United States Forest Products Laboratory Employees' Association, North Walnut Street, Madison, Wis., price a quarter.

## Puerto Rican developments

When Nathan Koenig of the Office of the Secretary was in Puerto Rico recently he was instrumental in calling a meeting with the bankers of the Island on June 29 to consider the possibility of establishing a Bankers' Agricultural Committee. The meeting was attended by representatives of all Puerto Rico's important banks as well as of USDA agencies in the island and representatives of the Puerto Rican Government. Mr. Koenig has made an intensive study of Puerto Rican agricultural conditions and those in attendance were most cordial in their appreciation of his interest and helpfulness. As a result of the suggestions presented the bankers have organized an agricultural committee to carry out a service program for Puerto Rican agriculture. In his work on the Island Mr. Koenig was also instrumental in bringing together all the farmer cooperatives to organize a cooperative fertilizer plant.

## No margarine information

Collection and distribution of data on the production of margarine has been discontinued by USDA under a ruling of the Bureau of the Budget whereby this work goes to the Department of Commerce after 33 years here, most recently in PMA's Transportation and Warehousing Branch.

## Dallas Burch settles

Dallas S. Burch, retiree from Bureau of Animal Industry, has settled at last at 500 Covington Road, Los Altos (near Palo Alto), Calif., where he owns a good-size lot and a ranch-type house with most of the rooms around a central patio. Of course one wall of the living room is of glass and it is otherwise California all over.

## Abaca and kenaf

S. 3520 to provide for continuation and expansion of Western Hemisphere production of abaca by the United States was approved by the President August 10 to become Public Law 683, Eighty-first Congress. A copy of a report on kenaf fiber as an alternative to jute may be procured by writing Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, by phoning Ext. 2445, or by dropping by Room 5922S.

## SCS to the rescue!

A cable from the President of Mexico urgently requesting 10 copies of the Manual de Conservación de Suelos, Spanish edition of the Soil Conservation Service Manual, sent the SCS Foreign Liaison Office people scurrying through the Department for copies the other day. Only nine copies could be found. Demand for this manual has been great in Latin-American countries—20,000 copies have been distributed in the last 3 years. Another 20,000 are being reprinted and will be ready soon. It also is being printed in French and Portuguese to supply the many requests from Europe and other countries. These editions should be available about November 1.

## Bovine tuberculosis

Dr. B. T. Simms, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, announces that, although bovine tuberculosis is declining in the United States, continued effort is necessary for its eradication. The number of reactors to the tuberculin test during the year ended June 30 last was 17,733, or 0.19 percent of the cattle tested, practically the same percentage as for the past 2 years. All United States counties are below the 0.5-percent mark, but evidence points to increased prevalence of tuberculosis in some areas. The Bureau's Meat Inspection Division renders specific aid to the eradication campaign by reporting cases of tuberculosis in cattle so that State and BAI officials can locate infection centers promptly in areas where testing is not in progress.

## Pictures

At one time *USDA* used pictures. Then the present editor gradually dispensed with them. There was no adverse comment. As *Your Farm* (952 Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11) for August remarks on the inside cover you cannot get out a fully newsy agricultural publication on a very limited budget and use a lot of illustrations. If you give people the information they need in such a way that they are enticed to read it pictures are superfluous. The Readers Digest found out about this long ago, and *Your Farm* is doing very well too. Lock it up—25 cents a copy and \$3 a year. *USDA* also appears to satisfy the customers. Visual aids are perfectly fine if you have space and money to finance them. But when you have to pack a great deal of readable information into very small space with extreme economy they are out.



## Rural life improvement

If interested in how effectively electric power is improving rural living standards read *Rural Electrification News* for August-September 1950, available from Rural Electrification Administration.

## Weed committee

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1264, August 4, announced the appointment of a USDA Weed Committee to work with a similar group in the Department of the Interior. It is composed of Erwin L. LeClerc of ARA, chairman; William L. Popham of EPQ, Roy L. Lovern of PISAE, W. R. Chapline of FS, and Forrest G. Bell of SCS.

## Wool situation

"Domestic Wool Requirements and Sources of Supply," a report made by Production and Marketing Administration and Bureau of Agricultural Economics, under authority of the Research and Marketing Act, says that the United States has resources for a one-third increase in sheep production and steady demand for the lambs and wool such added production would provide. Get copies of the Report from Information Branch, PMA, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Which twin has the ———?

You are used to seeing that in advertising. You'll find it also on the back and front covers of *Extension Service Review* for August 1950. The twins are calves. They are identical twins and the two of them can do as much work in feeding tests as 40 non-twin calves. And, while looking over this *Extension Service* monthly, don't miss the gadget that tells a story on page 134. Devised with a pair of cotton scales, 6 cigar boxes, and 11 hook-and-eye screws, it has greatly helped Uel D. Thompson encourage better livestock feeding in Texas.

## Science in Great Britain

"The Organization of Government Science in the United Kingdom," by W. A. MacFarlane, in the *Scientific Monthly* for August, makes informative reading for Americans. A fundamental difference between the organization of Government scientific research in the United Kingdom and the United States is that there they have one central scientific service responsible to a single cabinet minister, while here each scientific and research organization is attached directly to the pertinent executive department. The British pattern of organization is nevertheless very interesting and it functions well.

## Wages by corn standard

According to a study by John A. Hopkins of Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, a United States farmer last October needed to sell about 97 bushels of corn to pay a month's wages to one farm laborer, whereas a Mexican farmer in the border area south of the Rio Grande could accomplish the same purpose by selling only 12 bushels. In Mexico, however, it took a man-month of labor to produce 20 bushels of corn; in the United States a man-month produces 200 bushels, and in Iowa 550 bushels! A man-month of United States labor also produces about 350 bushels of wheat, as compared with about 200 on Mexican farms with tractors, and 25 to 65 on Mexican farms depending on oxen or mules for power. Comparisons on cotton and sugarcane are similar. In rice the margin favorable to us is very marked.

## Briscoe teaches

Sherman Briscoe, Office of Information, taught this summer at the Texas Prairie View A&M College summer school for Negro extension workers from 14 States.

## Insect- and rodent-damaged grain

Wallace Ashby of PISAE is now a member of the USDA coordinating committee on dealing with insect- and rodent-damaged grain, of which C. M. Packard of EPQ is chairman; the other two members are M. P. Jones of Ext and A. F. Nelson of PMA.

## Missouri River Basin

We have copies of a statement on the "Future of the Basin" by Gladwin Young, chairman of USDA's Field Committee for the Missouri River Basin. If you want a copy write the editor of *USDA*, address in last column, last page, and request No. 1844.

## SCS in USDA

Some of you have asked why Soil Conservation Service was omitted from the article on "Our Department" in the issue of August 16. Not by design we assure you. In our endeavor to condense the long statement from which we wrote, we unfortunately neglected to say that SCS with 11,500 employees provides technical services for over 2,200 State-chartered Soil Conservation Districts.

## Connecticut celebrates

Invitations have been issued by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station at New Haven to attend its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Program, September 28-29. Principal speakers are Arnold Nicholson, managing editor of *Country Gentleman* and President Detlev W. Bronk of Johns Hopkins. The second day there is a symposium on "The Research Institute in Modern Society."

## Visitors

The editor spoke recently on the history of USDA before a dozen French agricultural educators over in Extension Service, with the aid of simultaneous translation, earphones on the auditors, and everything a la United Nations. As this is written 15 major Danish farm-organization leaders have just arrived to study agricultural extension and Ext announces that the 4-H Clubs in Austria now have 17,000 members.

## Supervisory development

In Personnel Administration, the official publication of the Society of Personnel Administration, for July, you will find on page 10 an article by Robert E. Adcock and Merrill M. Taylor of Production and Marketing Administration, entitled "Supervisory Development in the Production and Marketing Administration." The authors are PMA training officers. The article is not only informative but well and readably written.

## New Zealand gift

A consignment of 2,500 pounds of grass and clover seed, including high-protein-yielding strains of rye grasses has been given to the United States by the Federated Farmers of New Zealand. It was brought to the United States by Assistant Director General R. B. Tennent of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, as a gesture of good will. The seed were distributed to State experiment stations in various parts of the country for test-plot planting.

## Bread standards

On August 8 the Food and Drug Administration published details of the new official standards to apply to baker's bread and kindred baked goods sold or transported in interstate commerce, subject to exceptions filed within 30 days.

## FAO report

The report of the United States Delegation to the Food and Agriculture Organization Council, ninth session, Rome, May 8-17, 1950, is available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. If you want to know the problems FAO faces, its chance of meeting them successfully, and something further of its forthcoming move to Rome, get this from FAR.

## Brucellosis declines

Brucellosis among United States cattle has declined during the last 4 years to the point where only 3.5 percent of the 5,974,721 cattle examined this fiscal year were positive to test. There was some lag during the war because of a shortage in veterinarians to make the test, but the tempo of the work has increased considerably since the end of World War II. Livestock producers also display increasing interest in the eradication of this disease. If heifer calves are vaccinated before 8 months of age they become good milk cows with fair resistance to brucellosis. Two million were vaccinated during the past year.

## Breakfast

Workers at the State University of Iowa recently tried out the effects of various types of breakfast on 10 women subjects. They found an increase in work output for 80 percent of the cases where they consumed a 600-calorie breakfast as compared with no breakfast at all. Even a cup of black coffee increased work output as compared with no breakfast. A decrease in maximum work output was noted in 89 percent of the cases when a cup of black coffee only was used in lieu of a regularly consumed 600-calorie breakfast of common breakfast foods. Finally, and note this: "Altered breakfast habits including regular omission of breakfast, consumption of black coffee only, consumption of 300-, 1,000-, and 600-calorie breakfasts (the last consumed with or without coffee) along with a free choice of kinds and quantity of foods consumed at other meals were not associated with any consistent alterations in body weights of the young women 18 to 25 years of age." (See *Journal of the American Dietetic Association* for July 1950 for further details.)

## YOUR COPY OF USDA

Your agency has been paying 75 cents a year for the copy of *USDA* that reaches you. Since July 1, 1950, some of the agencies have been purchasing fewer copies of *USDA* than heretofore. That means that each copy should be shared further than ever. If you no longer see *USDA* ask your supervisor to put you on the list to share a copy.

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# USDA

**FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 1950**

A SHORT FIVE years ago Japanese and Americans were far from friends. Today Yoshio Fujimaki, chief of the information section, and Masu Ukawa, formerly chief and now an official of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, visit the USDA as friends, and leave the United States loaded down with good will. Their time was well spent here. Their observations on American life, as seen in Washington, D. C., Ohio, and Oregon, are penetrating and keenly expressed in their own English as their reports and letters show. In Washington they were impressed with the excellence of Federal Government work, the salaries of the employees, their competence and equipment, and their useful services to the public. Under the heading "Customs that are different from those in Japan" we also read:

1, People enjoy their lives. 2, Generally speaking, people are kind and decent. They do not quarrel so much. 3, Everything is judged by sound common sense of the people in majority, not by rulers or regulations. 4, Women have much time to study and each woman has her own opinion. 5, Too many cars. Cars run too fast. 6, Buildings and streets generally clean. 7, Street cars and buses are not very crowded.

They were impressed with the American farmer, his lush equipment for his job, and the enjoyment he derived from doing it. Yet they found he worked hard even with so many mechanical aids! They found him eager to see new practices demonstrated and to try them. They extolled the active Extension work which so quickly made available to farmers advances in research at the State experiment stations and in USDA. The information work carried on at Ohio State greatly impressed them; the fact that it had a radio station—"in Japan it can never be imagined"—astounded them. They heard their own voices speaking English for the first time as they listened to a play-back. The cool summer nights in Oregon pleased and surprised them. Some of their further remarks follow:

Now we have two feelings at the same time: We want to go back to our country sooner and at the same time we want to stay in this country still longer \* \* \* We have spent just 90 days in this country and all of those 90 days are full of good memories. Also we are quite sure that we have got a lot of things that will be very helpful to us for our works in Japan.

Obviously this good-will tour will bring huge returns. We are making true friends in Japan. These travelers cannot help doing a lot more a lot better than before, when they return home, and there is a wealth of pleasant memory on both sides.

GIVING A LIFT to Hevea, which to most of us means research for improvement of the Brazil-born Para rubber tree, world's greatest source of natural rubber, has provided another good example of how investigators of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering shorten their probing time and cut costs. To their experimental gardens in Florida (an integral part of the hemisphere-wide cooperative rubber improvement project) the specialists of Dr. R. D. Rands' Division of Rubber Plant Investigations brought cuttings from clones in South America and other places and grafted them on pollarded (cut back) tops of Hevea trees already well established there. These vigorous mature trees force the new grafts (which they wish to cross in various ways) into bloom within 2 to 3 years.

As the normal time for blooming of grafts in ordinary plantation practice is 4 to 6 years, the time for this research stage is halved and the men are able to carry out many more breeding trials and increase their chances for success in combining disease resistance and productivity. Among the plants they use are high-yielding ones from the Far East and disease-resistant ones from the Amazon area. Sometimes grafts from a number of different clones are put on one tree, facilitating natural crossing and also making the hand crossing more convenient for the breeders.

H. F. Loomis, in charge of the work at Coconut Grove, Fla., says conditions there are peculiarly suitable. The Hevea trees and the grafts thrive there; their flowers not only come earlier but are produced in four or more separate bloomings. Both factors facilitate the meticulous work of crossing. In the deep tropics nature gives this tree only a single blooming period a year.

## Science in USDA

IN 1889 when a new law gave the Department its first Assistant Secretary, he became its first scientific director. That was in Secretary Rusk's administration. The divisions concerned with botany, pomology, microscopy, chemistry, ornithology, forestry, entomology, silk and vegetable pathology and the Office of Experiment Stations were transferred to his office. General control of scientific work was vested in the then Assistant Secretary Edwin Willits. In Secretary Morton's administration Willits was succeeded by Dr. George W. Dabney, Jr., and he also had charge of the Department's scientific work. Two years later Secretary Morton decided that the administration of scientific work should be removed as far as possible from the sphere of political changes, and recommended that a director-in-chief of scientific bureaus and investigations be appointed at \$6,000 a year. Hearings were held, Congress and the President seemed favorable to the idea, but nothing was done about it then.

On March 23, 1897, Dr. Dabney was succeeded by Joseph Henry Brigham as Assistant Secretary and Dr. Dabney was appointed special agent in charge of scientific and statistical investigations. He was instructed to supervise all the Department's scientific and technical work. Chiefs of the scientific divisions and offices were instructed to report to him. But Dr. Dabney resigned September 30, 1897, to resume the presidency of the University of Tennessee, whereupon the scientific agencies and offices were instructed to report to the Secretary, who thus became director of scientific work in fact. This was in the administration of Secretary "Tama" Jim Wilson, and not until 1921 was the position of director of scientific work definitely reestablished.



## Scientific writing

THE FOLLOWING material is taken from "General Notes on the Preparation of Scientific Papers," published this year by Cambridge University Press for the British Royal Society; our library has a copy. The research worker is advised to start drafting his paper while his work is in progress by writing parts of it, jotting down headings, and preparing tables and figures in various forms to pick the best. As to organization, follow that of the journal in which you intend to publish; observe its conventions strictly as to the form it requires, the manner and details of presentation, footnotes and references. To quote:

It may seem superfluous to state that the paper should be clear, precise, logical, and brief. Many papers submitted to journals are not, and authors should bear these four essentials in mind at every stage in the preparation of a paper. To most authors good writing comes only as a result of much practice. Experience shows that clarity and precision are best achieved by the use of short words and simple sentences. \* \* \* Authors should not introduce new systems of nomenclature or new symbols unless they are unavoidable. If two or more accepted systems exist, authors should state clearly which system they are following. \* \* \* Footnotes should be avoided as far as possible, since they break the reading of the text and are expensive.

Having completed your paper, ask colleagues who are not in the same specialty to read it critically and point out the irrelevant, illogical, obscure, or verbose matter. Lay your paper aside and give it a later rereading. Tidy presentation often brings to light errors that can be concealed in an obscure and polysyllabic style. Readers tend to doubt the validity and value of obscurely written papers. Write for the moderate specialists rather than for the scant half-dozen persons in the world who thoroughly know your own specialty; many of them will be interested and helped by part of what you have to say. Make your title specific and brief, but specific first, because many will decide whether or not to read the paper by its content as indicated by the title. Write your synopsis concisely but in normal not in telegraphic language; it should be intelligible per se. And go easy on the proofs—do not wait until then to insert new matter or correct basic faults in the style or arrangement of your paper.

### Point 4

As long ago as 1905, in the administration of Secretary Wilson, special use of USDA facilities was granted Latin American students to enable them to familiarize themselves with such lines of Department investigation as might be of direct interest and benefit to them.

## Andrews on co-ops

A vivid picture of how the cooperative principle is serving as a bulwark against dictatorship and undesirable monopolies was drawn by Stanley Andrews, Director of our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, before the American Institute of Cooperation at its recent annual meeting at Stillwater, Okla. Saying that he knew of "few developments which strengthened the hands of the masses more than the cooperative principle," Andrews added:

Whether it springs from the nature and attitude of farmers who largely compose them, or whether it is inherent in the philosophy of the cooperative movement, the fact is that the farmer cooperatives have been the last to go down before a dictatorship, and where dictators have been overthrown, farmers and their cooperatives have been the first to take up democracy again.

Probably why we hear so little in Western European countries from farmers about monopolies is that the farms are strong enough to meet monopoly on its own ground. Few, if any monopolies on crops can exist without meeting the terms of the farmers' marketing cooperatives. Likewise, the cooperatives can bring to terms any monopoly in fertilizer or seed distribution.

## George E. Farrell dead

GEORGE E. FARRELL, aged 68, for many years a member of the team that had responsibility for supervision of the National 4-H Club Camp, and from 1933 to 1938, prominently identified in the AAA program, died suddenly on August 22. Born on a farm in Du Page County, Ill., Mr. Farrell enrolled at Northwestern University and subsequently became assistant county superintendent of schools in Cook County, Ill. In 1915, after passage of the Smith-Lever Act, he was appointed assistant boys and girls club leader in the Department, and during World War I conducted home food-preservation demonstrations.

He continued as extension leader in the USDA's 4-H Club work until September 1, 1933, then he was appointed assistant to M. L. Wilson, chief of the newly organized AAA Wheat Section. On September 17, 1936, he was made regional director of the Western Division of the reorganized Triple-A under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. From 1939 until his retirement in December 1945 he was on the staff of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. At the time of his death Mr. Farrell was preparing to leave for Guam where Governor Skinner had asked him to come and develop an extension service.

## Those were the days

THE WASHINGTON Daily Advertiser reported June 11, 1800, that the State, War, Navy, and Post Office Departments—all but Treasury—had moved from Philadelphia to the village of 3,000 on the Potomac. Georgetown and Alexandria then had populations of 5,000 each. The total number of employees—moved, 131, would hardly swell Washington's population much—Treasury had 69, War 18, Navy 15, Post Office 9, and State 7. There were 13 employees attached to no department; possibly they had emergency agencies then? The move cost \$15,293 plus \$32,873 to move the employees themselves and their families.

One Treasury clerk with a family of nine spent 6 days getting here from Philadelphia and charged the Government \$100 for carriage hire and \$72 for family expenses en route, plus \$30 for his board and lodging in Philadelphia after his furniture left, and \$30 more for the same in Washington before he got his household reestablished. Bookkeeping was hazy in those days and the amounts claimed by different employees varied widely.

The Post Office was set up in three partly finished rooms on two floors of a rented building at Ninth and E Streets NW. The Secretary of the Treasury found his Department closely crowded into the one office building in the city then completed and seven State Department employees were packed in along with it. Soon six buildings between Twenty-first and Twenty-second on Pennsylvania Avenue, eased the accommodations. And, if you are interested, Potomac is an Algonkin word meaning "trading place"—it was then spelled, "Potowomek." Powhatan was then chief of the Piscataway Indians and cornered the local copper market, and Roanoke was an Indian word meaning shells used as currency.

### Beal heads forest insect work

Dr. James A. Beal has been selected to head the Division of Forest Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, succeeding Dr. F. C. Craighead, retired. A native of Arkansas who took his B. S. in entomology at Massachusetts State, and his M. S. and Ph. D. in forestry and entomology at Syracuse University, he is a well-known authority on forest insects. After being an assistant in the Maine Forest Service he joined EPQ as entomologist in charge of its forest insect laboratory, Asheville, N. C., in 1926; he moved to the similar lab in Portland, Oreg., in 1929, and, from 1934 until 1939, was in charge of forest insect work at Fort Collins, Colo. He then joined the faculty of Duke School of Forestry. He is the author of many publications in his chosen field. During the past six summers he has worked under temporary appointments with EPQ.



## USDA DOCUMENTS

All USDA documents are in stock as follows: No. 1, Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, May 1, 1950; No. 2, Abridged List of Federal Laws Applicable to Agriculture, November 1, 1949; No. 3, Biographies of Persons in Charge of Federal Agricultural Work, 1836 to Date, June 2, 1948; No. 4, Condensed History of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, May 15, 1950; No. 5, Our Department Scientists—outstanding achievements of some of our earlier famous workers in natural science; No. 6, Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists, October 1, 1950. Order by number. *Send written orders to the editor of USDA. Please do not phone or come in person.* A convenient List of Documents which acts as an order blank is sent out in each letter from the USDA office.

## Brief but important

### Soil and water conservation

There is available from Soil Conservation Service a processed publication numbered PA-150 and entitled "Abstracts of Recent Published Material on Soil and Water Conservation." It is by J. H. Stallings of SCS.

### USDA health services

The Division of Employee Health, Office of Personnel, has just issued a four-page publication entitled "Health Service for Employees of the Department of Agriculture . . . A Service to Promote and Maintain Physical and Mental Health." *You should see a copy of this publication. If you have not, ask your own agency personnel officer about it.*

### Occupational deferment

Secretary's Memorandum No. 1267, August 15, announces the appointment of a committee consisting of S. B. Herrell of Pers as chairman, R. W. Trullinger of OES, and S. R. Newell of BAE, to deal with the occupational deferment from military service of USDA employees who are members of the Military Reserve or are subject to induction under the Selective Service Act. For details get the memorandum from Secretary's Records Unit, Office of Plant and Operations, USDA.

### Extension editors

Calvert Anderson of Washington State has been named chairman of the committee to handle press and radio relations for the annual meeting of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, to be held in Washington, D. C., in November. Louis Franke has returned from a 2-month tour in Germany where he found Bavaria to be their Texas and learned a great deal about German plumbing, scenery, alfalfa, and electrical meat grinders.

### Commendation

The editor's friend, C. B. Larrabee of Printers' Ink (he is president and publisher) wrote him recently: "With all my crabbing about Government service, I am almost amazed that so many fine people with a real sense of public service will do the jobs which need so badly to be done at such niggardly salaries. I don't suppose you ever thought I would make a remark like that. What may surprise you even more is that a large number of businessmen, in spite of what they may say at congressional hearings, feel the same way I do."

## Consumer standards for vegetables

U. S. consumer standards became effective August 19 for fresh Brussels sprouts and August 26 for kale. Standards were already available for husked corn on the cob, potatoes, tomatoes, spinach leaves, celery, and carrots. For more about this *write* the editor of *USDA*, bottom last column back page, and ask for No. 2097.

### Lunchroom pioneering

As early as 1909 Secretary Wilson arranged with a local restaurateur to install a lunchroom in an old frame building not usable for office purposes. While a "good wholesome luncheon" could be purchased here for 10 cents, the cost of the average lunch was 15 cents. That was pretty high so most of us still brought our lunches from home.

### Telephone manners

Your agency personnel offices as well as the staff Office of Personnel are again distributing helpful printed and processed films, publications, and questionnaires on telephone courtesy. If you want copies of these materials consult your own agency personnel officer or, *if you cannot get them otherwise*, apply to Division of Training, Office of Personnel.

### Reducing egg damage in shipment

Production and Marketing Administration has a new report entitled "Reduction of Loss and Damage in Rail Transportation of Shell Eggs by Improved Loading and Bracing." Get it from their Information Branch. It is based on a Research and Marketing Act study concerned with shipments of 1,680 carloads of eggs and tells how damage can be reduced while the hen fruit is on the rails.

### Tree crops

"Tree Crops, A Permanent Agriculture" is a new book from Devin-Adair, 23 and 25 East Twenty-sixth Street, New York City 10. It is by J. Russel Smith, emeritus professor of economic geography at Columbia. Every important variety of every nut tree is discussed along with persimmon and cork. Bernard Baruch is quoted as saying that "Anyone with a plot large enough to plant a tree will be interested in reading this book." The book is illustrated, costs \$6, and the USDA Library has a copy.

### Research achievements

Three more Research Achievement Sheets have appeared from Agricultural Research Administration from which agency you procure them. No. 130 (E) gives all the essential facts on work in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine which resulted in control of the tomato pinworm; No. 131 (E) on work in the same Bureau which resulted in control of the tomato fruitworm; and No. 133 (E) provides similar information developed in EPQ on control of the pepper weevil. On these sheets you will find the entire history of the achievement mentioned, including bibliographical references as well as cost and estimated value of the work.

### About lightning

Know how not to get hit by lightning? Stay in your car. Occupants of an automobile are practically immune from being struck. However, lightning causes fires in 12 unprotected as against but 1 fully protected building equipped with lightning rods, used since soon after Benjamin Franklin went kite-flying in 1752. If you want to know more about avoiding danger from thunderstorms get Farmers' Bulletin No. 1512 entitled "Protection of Buildings and Farm Property from Lightning," by two weather men, Roy N. Covert and Louis P. Harrison, and agricultural engineer Harry L. Garver.

## Who wrote it?

"O Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference."

### "Soils and Health"

This is the title of an informative and documented article by Dr. Leonard A. Maynard, formerly Director of our United States Plant, Soil, and Nutrition Laboratory at Ithaca, N. Y., in the July 1, 1950, Journal of the American Medical Association.

### Aid on Philippine coconut disease

Dr. Donald De Leon, USDA forest entomologist, has gone to the Philippines to aid scientists there in efforts to isolate and control insects believed responsible for spreading a costly, and probably virus-caused disease, known as cadang-cadang among coconut trees.

### New cotton-opening machine

Scientists at our Southern Regional Research Laboratory have developed an improved machine of radically new design for opening and fluffing baled cotton to make it clean easier and spin better. It should prove of special value in preparing mechanically harvested cotton for cleaning and processing into yarn and fabrics. If you want more details on this *write* the editor of *USDA*, address at bottom last column last page, and ask for No. 2102.

### Agricultural Research Administration

We have copies of a talk made by B. T. Shaw, deputy administrator of ARA entitled "The Agricultural Research Administration—Its Philosophy and Organization." Here is a subject about which many of you would like to know more if you could acquire that knowledge painlessly and in brief compass. This speech is the answer. To get copies *write* the editor of *USDA*—see name and address in bottom last column back page.

### She kept it cold all right

A. Linda Jennrich of Bureau of Animal Industry in Milwaukee recently sent a clipping from the Milwaukee Journal for August 16 describing the arrival of firemen at a home where a refrigerator leak had been reported. It wasn't a leak; it was a canned ham burst at the seams right under the refrigerator's low-slung motor. Asked why she put it there the lady pointed to the label which imperatively warned: "Keep Under Refrigeration," so she put it under the refrigerator—why not?

### More eggs under ultraviolet

Five years ago H. G. Barott of Bureau of Animal Industry and L. G. Schoenleber and L. W. Campbell of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering undertook to find out whether bactericidal ultraviolet light would help increase egg production. Hens exposed to these very short rays of invisible light, in subterranean poultry houses from which all natural light can be excluded, have been found to lay 10 to 19 percent more eggs per bird than their sisters, who are maintained under the same conditions and who get the same vitamin-D-containing diet. However, it has been demonstrated conclusively that neither the number of the bacteria in the poultry house nor the vitamin D content of the light rays is involved in the beneficial effect. The idea had been to decrease the number of airborne bacteria in the hen house and see if that would increase egg production. Further tests have shown that addition of vitamin D to the poultry rations in more than normal quantities does not increase egg production.



## "Beltsville Honor Awards"

Several employees wrote in protest about the story of this title in the July 19 issue, saying that the names of the awardees were not printed. If they read *USDA* regularly they would find that the names of those who got the awards had already appeared in the issue for June 5.

## New publications

New Technical Bulletin No. 1010 is "Forest Plantations in the Lake States" by Paul O. Rudolf of FS Lake States Forest Experiment Station, and you may get from Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine "Tests of Insecticides for Grasshopper Control," compiled by J. R. Parker, if you ask for E-807.

## Burke to Europe

J. Henry Burke, USDA marketing specialist, is now in Europe to survey citrus production in the eastern Mediterranean area and to study the citrus marketing situation in Western Europe. This is a Research and Marketing Act project sponsored by our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

## Community Chest

Assistant Secretary K. T. Hutchinson will serve as Department chairman for the 1951 Community Chest Campaign and W. S. Harris, administrative officer in the Office of the Secretary, as vice chairman. Agency chairmen are about to be or have been appointed who will designate their key personnel. Organization of the campaign is already well under way.

## Oak wilt progresses

Recent surveys in which affected trees were spotted by aerial observers showed that oak wilt, a serious disease of forest trees caused by the fungus *Chalara quercina*, is now widely distributed in southern Missouri and has reached the northern tier of Arkansas counties. If interested in more details on this serious disease write the editor of *USDA*, name and address in last column of last page, and request No. 2036.

## The prophet Louis

Louis H. Bean's (Office of the Secretary) new book "The Mid-Term Battle" has been issued by Cantillon Books, 1523 L Street NW., Washington 5, D. C., at \$1 a copy. Herein readers can find for themselves what may happen in the key States in this fall's election. If it doesn't happen, they can measure the extent to which election results were affected by new events in the Nation and the world. The 26 charts alone are worth the price of admission. Give this popularly prepared book close attention if you would like to become an election prophet.

## Julia D. Connor

Julia D. Connor, head of general files, Farm Credit Administration, retired August 31 after 20 years of Government service, since 1933 with FCA. Her outstanding work was rewarded in 1945 when she received the first meritorious promotion granted by FCA. Miss Connor began her Government career in 1917 in the War Department. In 1920 she went with the Bureau of Standards where she assisted in organizing the personnel for its new Division of Building and Housing. She left Government in 1923 to become assistant director of Better Homes of America, returning in 1931 as administrative assistant to the President's Conference on Home Building and Home Ownership. In 1932 she became assistant secretary of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

## Rubber from goldenrod

Our Southern Regional Research Laboratory has solved a problem that eluded Thomas Edison and other earlier workers who tried to use goldenrod as a source of rubber. The SRRL scientists first extract unwanted resinous materials from the leaves then use a preextraction treatment with an active bacterial culture from sewage sludge to permit better and quicker extraction of higher quality rubber. For the complete story and reference data get from Agricultural Research Administration Research Achievement Sheet 133 (C).

## Hybrid cotton coming

Plant geneticists at University of Georgia and USDA are gradually putting hybrid vigor into the cotton crop which, unlike corn, has complete flowers, hence is more difficult to hybridize than corn. Significant increases in vigor, yield, and other valuable characters have occurred in various crosses of commercial varieties of four species. In time, hybrid vigor may give the cotton grower the same aid it now offers to corn farmers. Large-scale commercial utilization of natural crossing to produce hybrid cottonseed is not to be expected in the near future, however.

## Scourable sheep-branding fluid

A troublesome problem of the wool industry has been solved. Sheep must be identified with a durable brand that will last for months, but the pigments used later cause trouble in the processing end of the wool industry. Now scientists in PMA have developed a sheep-branding fluid that can be completely removed from wool by scouring. The formula is 100 parts of lanolin by weight, 25 parts of carbon tetrachloride by volume, and 3 parts of pigment by weight. The brands stay legible after a year's exposure. You will find a complete report on this project in "Development of Scourable Sheep-Branding Fluids," obtainable from Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA.

## Books on writing and publicity

We call your attention to two new books from International Textbook Co., Scranton 9, Pa., both of which are in our Library. "Is Your Publicity Showing?" by Alice Partlow Curtis, priced at \$2, covers getting our publicity in print and over radio and television, in rather a rudimentary way, and is illustrated with rather superfluous cartoons. "Practical Report Writing," priced at \$2.75, is by Selby S. Santmyers, and covers the very necessary writing that is done in preparing business and technical reports, statements to stockholders, market surveys, accounts of chemical tests made, investigations of accidents, and formulating research projects for the supervisor; it is serious and well-done. It does not, however, deal with the preparation of scientific papers reporting research.

## Southern prize winners

News comes that three microscopists at the Southern Regional Research Laboratory have won prizes in a Nation-wide contest on the use of photography in research. Ruth Gluffria and Enno A. Schoenhardt, Jr., took first place in the section on fiber photomicrography for a picture showing the origin of fibers in the epidermis of the cottonseed coat. Ines V. deGruy placed second in the group on photomicrographic transparencies with a view showing the cross section of a partly acetylated cotton yarn. Both pictures were taken in connection with studies at the Laboratory to expand the usefulness of cotton and cottonseed. The contest, held by the American Society for Testing Materials at its annual meeting in Philadelphia recently, drew pictures from some of the foremost research institutions in the country.

## NEW SOCIAL SECURITY

The new amendments to the Social Security Act are now law. Beginning January 1, 1951, farm workers are covered along with other categories not previously included. You can get from the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, Federal Security Agency, Fact Sheet No. 8, giving questions and answers, as well as a four-page leaflet For Farm Workers. If you want details procure these processed publications from the Agency in Washington, D. C., or its local offices. Workers in Production Credit and National Farm Loan Associations, as well as in PMA State, county, and township committees are covered.

## ORGANIZATION OF U. S. AG RESEARCH

We have copies of an informative and helpful mimeograph from the Office of the Administrator, Agricultural Research Administration, entitled "Organization of Agricultural Research in the United States." It is in question-and-answer form. It covers the financing of such research in the United States, the number of scientific people employed at it, both State experiment station and Federal figures are given, and there is complete information on the organization of research in the USDA, the types performed by the various agencies, and the manner in which farmers, consumers, and even foreign countries benefit. Request by title: *Write the editor of USDA*; name and address bottom of last column last page as usual.

## LONG MAY SHE WAVE!

United Nations flags, hand-made by the women of the United States, will fly besides the Stars and Stripes from staffs in churches, schools, government, civic, and other public buildings, on United Nations Day, October 24. This Nation-wide, modern-day Betsy (international) Ross flag-making project, sponsored by a National Citizen's Committee for UN Day, was suggested by a special farm organization UN Day Subcommittee to foster a wider recognition of the UN flag, and an understanding of the role of the United Nations in a troubled world. Spearheading the educational activities assigned to the Co-operative Extension Service are the State and county home demonstration and 4-H Club agents and the clothing specialists. Simple patterns for making the flags are available from the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, 59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago, Ill., and information on sewing and design can be obtained from home demonstration agents at county extension headquarters.

## Sept. 27, 1950 Vol. IX, No. 20

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USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR OCTOBER 11, 1950

## Attention veterans!

JULY 25, 1951, is a critical date all USDA World War II veterans should note. Vets eligible for education or training but who have not undertaken such training under the GI Bill of Rights, as well as those who have commenced but have not completed their course, may be vitally affected by this date. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act, the so-called GI Bill, says that a course of education shall begin before the termination of 4 years after the date of discharge, or by July 25, 1951, whichever is later, and that such education can't be given beyond July 25, 1956, except for those veterans who enlisted under the Voluntary Recruitment Act of October 6, 1945.

Therefore the vet must have commenced and actually be pursuing his course of education or training on or before July 25, 1951, or the date 4 years after discharge, whichever is later, except where his attendance undergoes normal interruptions for summer vacations or other reasons beyond the control of the veterans. The Veterans' Education and Training Amendments of 1950 (Public Law 610—81st Cong.) clarifying the GI bill, recently signed by the President, does not change the July 25, 1951, cut-off date. If USDA veterans have questions concerning their education or training rights under the GI Bill, they may make inquiry of any Veterans' Administration office.

## Your fortune

Have you ever stopped to realize that if you are eligible to retire on an annuity of \$2,500 a year that amounts to 5-percent interest on a fortune of \$50,000? However, 5-percent interest is rather high these days and safe and sound investments may yield no more than 3 percent. So even if you retire on only \$2,000 a year that could represent your fortune of \$66,666, while \$3,600 a year would represent a fortune of \$120,000. You are much richer than you think you are!

## Not just pajamas

YOU MAY HAVE seen false statements to the effect that the USDA had made a survey of how many men wore pajamas of which the results were obvious without study, and that it cost \$100,000 and another \$100,000 to print. Then you might be interested in the facts. Men's pajamas formed but one item in the study of "Men's Preferences Among Selected Clothing Items." Of the 161 questions asked in the survey, 6 dealt with pajamas; also included were business shirts, dress shirts, summer sport shirts, extra trousers and slacks, socks, underwear, robes, raincoats and summer suits. The study cost \$60,000; 5,000 copies of it were printed at a cost of \$3,306.60. This should be sufficient.

This study was not made because the USDA just took a notion to make it. The information was gathered for use by textile people and others interested in the improvement and marketing of textiles. The suggestion for the study came from representatives of the wool and cotton industries who serve on advisory committees working with USDA under provisions of the Research and Marketing Act. Farmers, manufacturers, handlers, and distributors are represented on these committees. The Cotton Advisory Committee placed such consumer preference studies at the top of a list of 13 items recommended for investigation in the field of marketing fiber and fiber products.

## Agricultural journalism

A talk was prepared by and read for Dr. R. W. Trullinger, Chief of the Office of Experiment Stations, at the thirty-fourth annual conference of the American Association of Agricultural College Editors in Texas during September. It is entitled "Needed—A Profession of Agricultural Journalism," and it merits the close attention of all you whole-time, part-time, and would-be writers. Request by title from the Office of Experiment Stations, USDA.

## Defense Production Act

UNDER THE provisions of the Defense Production Act of 1950 certain minimum ceilings are established for prices for agricultural commodities, when and if price ceilings are put into effect. The law says that they shall NOT be set below the highest of the following prices: 1, Parity prices; 2, the highest price received by producers during the period May 24, 1950 to June 24, 1950, inclusive; 3, in the case of any commodity for which the market was not active during the period May 24 to June 24, 1950, the average price received during the most recent representative period prior to May 24, in which the market for such commodity was active as determined and adjusted by the Secretary (of Agriculture) to a level in line with the level of prices during the period May 24 to June 24, 1950.

The minimum price ceiling for fire-cured tobacco is set at a "price equal to 75 percent of the parity price of Burley tobacco of the corresponding crop." Minimum price ceilings for dark air-cured and Virginia sun-cured tobaccos are set at 66⅔ percent of the price of Burley tobacco. (These percentages are the same as those in the tobacco price support program.) Price ceilings on commodities processed or manufactured from agricultural commodities may not be set below a price which would reflect to the producers of the agricultural commodities the highest of the prices set forth above. Such price ceilings also must provide for a "generally fair and equitable margin" for processing. Ceilings for agricultural commodities would be adjusted under the law for reductions in yield, unusual increases in costs of production, and for other conditions. Ceilings for milk prices in areas not under marketing agreements and orders would be adjusted in relationship to prices of milk marketed under agreements and orders, and in view of the availability and price of feed and other economic conditions.

(If you wish to know more about the delegations of authority to PMA and FS under the act write the editor of *USDA* and request No. 2270. See also Secretary's Memorandum No. 1270, September 15.)

## Grass and legume seed

Certified seed supplies of certain improved varieties of grasses and legumes for farm planting in 1951 will be the largest ever produced, according to O. C. Garrison, executive secretary of the National Foundation Seed Project. Ranger, Buffalo, and Atlantic alfalfas, Kenland red clover, and Tift Sudan grass are mentioned in the summary you may get by writing the editor of *USDA* and asking for No. 2183.



## For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees listed below. Reasons for the increases are given in P-Memo 750, Supplement 6, of the Office of Personnel.

*Agricultural Research Center:* MARION B. CAVEY, clerk, Beltsville, Md.; DOLores McGONICAL, clerk, Beltsville, Md.

*Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry:* MATHILDE A. DEVELLE, clerk-stenographer, New Orleans, La.; RAYMOND W. SOOY, administrative assistant, Wyndmoor, Pa.; JEANNE P. OLWELL, clerk-stenographer, Albany, Calif.; PEGGY D. BAIRD, chemist, Peoria, Ill.

*Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine:* CARL W. FOWLER, operation supervisor, Berkeley, Calif.; NATHAN GREEN, chemist, Beltsville, Md.; ARTHUR W. LINQUIST, entomologist, Corvallis, Oreg.; ADOLPH R. ROTH, entomologist, Corvallis, Oreg.; HARRY L. SMITH, division leader, Hicksville, N. Y.; WILLIAM R. TURNER, entomologist, Fort Valley, Ga.; CONRAD P. WESSELA, forester, Berkeley, Calif.

*Farmers Home Administration:* CECIL V. CUMMINS, farm management supervisor (county supervisor), Batesville, Miss.; JOHN LINN, farm management supervisor (county supervisor), Lawrence, Kans.; JAMES B. WARNER, farm management supervisor, Paw Paw, Mich.

*Forest Service:* FORREST W. DEFFENBACHER, forester (nursery), Carson, Wash.; P. FREEMAN HEIM, visual presentation information specialist, Milwaukee, Wis.; AUSTIN E. HELMERS, forester (forest influences), Priest River, Idaho; DON R. IRWIN, physical science aid, Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis.; DOROTHY M. MARTIN, secretary (stenography), Washington, D. C.; RICHARD H. MILLAR, forester (timber management), Mississippi National Forest, Jackson, Miss.; MILDRED M. MOLER, tabulating equipment operation supervisor, Washington, D. C.; JAMES R. SEWARD, forester (administration), Athens Ranger District, Ohio; CLIFFORD E. TERRELL, forestry aid (general), Shawnee National Forest, Ill.; RICHARD WETHERILL, forestry aid (general), Santa Fe National Forest, Coyote, N. Mex.

*Soil Conservation Service:* RUTH M. COLLISON, purchasing clerk, Fort Worth, Tex.; NELVA R. DIRKS, (since deceased), fiscal accountant, Fort Worth, Tex.; HENRY P. FIENIKEN, JR., engineering aid, Mansfield, La.; ROY H. GOUGH, soil conservationist, Temple, Tex.; JAMES H. HOPSON, agricultural engineer (conservation), DeQueen, Ark.; MARY C. KEEGAN, clerk-stenographer, Fort Worth, Tex.; JOHN W. MATTHEWS, JR., cartographic draftsman, Fort Worth, Tex.; HOMER C. MITCHELL, forester (general), Fort Worth, Tex.

## Rust in the mint

Don't tell us you thought that stuff in the mint didn't rust. Anyway it's not that kind of mint. It's the kind widely used to flavor a beverage in the South. Washington and Oregon peppermint fields are ravaged by a rust that may cost them one-third of their crop this year. It causes affected leaves to drop off and saps the mint oil from those remaining. Mint growers are badly frightened. To get an effective fungicide which will not itself injure this rather delicate crop is a problem now being tackled earnestly. Sulfur and sulfur compounds can do the job, but sulfur distills over in the oil from the leaves of the first mint crop in the form of carbon disulfide the taste and smell of which are far from appetizing.

## State movies

MOTION PICTURE Service, Office of Information, conducted a survey recently to determine the extent to which extension services, universities, and State colleges were meeting the problem of short farm-movie supply by producing their own films. According to MPS Chief Chester Lindstrom, almost twice as many States are making films now as did in 1946, and the number of State-produced films has about doubled since that time. The States, happily, are producing the type of local subject-matter film which neither the film industry nor USDA can supply. The growth of film production in the field is encouraging, for only in expanded production all over the country can local film needs be met.

The Motion Picture Service has helped the growth of State films to some extent. To spur on field productions MPS some years ago opened its facilities and offered the services of its trained personnel to State agricultural agencies. The extension services in a few States responded to the invitation, and soon co-operative productions were in progress, with MPS's contributions ranging from advice to the making of complete films. Today more and more States are availing themselves of Department help on movies. Incidentally, a byproduct of the survey is a catalog of State-produced motion pictures which lists and describes 136 films of interest to farm audiences.

## A good secretary

GRACE TULLY, whose boss was Franklin D. Roosevelt for 17 years, but who had her initial secretarial training under a priest and a cardinal, evolved the following 10 rules and tried to live up to them. She regards them as embodying the fundamentals of good secretarial conduct.

1. Be loyal to the boss.
2. Never discuss office business with outsiders.
3. Deal tactfully with outsiders whose problems are important to them if not to you, and do not antagonize them.
4. Do not commit the boss to any line of action or any appointments unless you have specific authority or are sure of your ground.
5. Be attentive and informed on the business of the office.
6. Inform the boss about what you have done or what you have learned insofar as this bears upon his responsibilities.
7. Remind your boss of appointments, anniversaries, birthdays, and special occasions. (There is more to this, but it concerns being secretary to a President, so let's skip it.)
8. Be neat; dress well, and always in good taste for office purposes; take care of hair, face, and hands, and wear enough clothing at all times.

9. Live by the clock so as always to be on time for work and appointment; do not live by the clock if this involves surly agreement to occasional overtime stints or extras.

10. Commend your boss for a good letter, a good speech, or a sound action demonstrating his judgment and capacity for his job.

Incidentally, Miss Tully had the average woman's aversion to working for a woman: (Did you ever hear a man say, "I simply will not work for a man"?) Anyway, the first woman she worked for was Mrs. Roosevelt; she liked it.

## RECENT RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

The October 1, 1950, issue of *USDA Document No. 6, "Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agricultural Scientists,"* is ready for distribution. To get copies write the editor of *USDA* whose name and address is always at the bottom of the last column, last page, each issue. Inform yourself about what our scientists in ARA, BAE, FAR, FCA, FS, PMA, and SCS have been doing recently. The document is composed of brief, varied items, popularly written.

## Brief but important

### FHA doubles insured loans

Farmers used nearly twice as many loans insured by the Farmers Home Administration to buy or improve farms in the 1950 than in the previous fiscal year, the number of loans having risen to 2,162 from 1,157. For more details on these and other loans write Press Service, USDA, and request No. 2118.

### Cotton progress

If you want a digest of a talk by Dr. H. D. Barker, who heads cotton research in Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, which tells how annual spinning tests from new strains are providing information to revolutionize cotton breeding, write the editor of *USDA*—address in last column, last page—and ask for No. 2145.

### Man the Bibles!

Prof. O. B. Jesness of University of Minnesota and a regular reader of *USDA* suggests a rereading of I Corinthians 13:9. If you have lost your Bible the verse goes thus: "So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air."

### New publications

Conservation Irrigation, from Soil Conservation Service, by Allan W. McCulloch and Wayne D. Criddle, is Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 8; it combines illustrations, text, attractiveness, and information very well indeed. \* \* \* Electricity Comes to Rural America is PA-109 from Rural Electrification Administration and tells the fascinating story of how the advent of electricity stimulated farming in the modern way.

### Propaganda and communication

There was a thought-provoking article in *Fortune* for September 1950, called "Is Anybody Listening?" It is a candid discussion of efforts made by American business to communicate with the public via advertising and otherwise. It deals directly with the distinction between propaganda and communication, and contains much that should be of interest and value to our own information workers.



## Dairy cow production

If interested in the all-time high average production achieved by Dairy Herd Improvement Association cows in 1949 write the editor of *USDA* and get the national and State dope; ask for No. 1816.

## Scientific information

S. 868, approved by the President September 11, provides for the Department of Commerce to collect and disseminate technological, scientific, and engineering information to American business and industry.

## Lysenko and World Science

Julian Huxley's book, published by Henry Schuman, Inc., New York City, and of which the USDA Library has a copy, entitled "Hereditry, East and West, Lysenko and World Science," is the best and most easily readable and understood discussion of the recent world controversy in the field of genetics the editor has so far come across.

## "The Explorer"

Responding to the editor's request that all agencies, field and in Washington, D. C., regularly send him their administrative letters and house organs, whether official or out-of-hours, the "Lewis and Clark Explorer" was sent in by the National Forest of that name at Great Falls, Mont., and its bright newness is much appreciated. It is an out-of-hours ditto job.

## Weather

Eric Sloane's book, "Clouds, Air and Wind," which first appeared in 1941, has reappeared, revised, from Devin-Adair Co., 23 East Twenty-sixth St., New York City 10, at \$4.50. If you aspire to be a minor weather prophet or to train yourself to know what the clouds and other weather signs mean, this well-illustrated volume should help you.

## Plants to be explored

Of the 200,000-300,000 known plants in the world only about 250 are cultivated as sources of food or fiber or for other economic purposes. Possibly another 20,000 are used to some extent in forestry, grazing, or for making drugs. But that leaves plenty of other plants to be explored for possible usefulness, according to Director Frederick T. Wahlen of FAO's Agriculture Division.

## T. M. Campbell

An editorial by Dr. Douglas Hunt in the Birmingham News for August 21, highly commended T. M. Campbell, extension field agent at Tuskegee who, since 1906, has served his people and his region in agriculture. His territory now covers the seven Southeastern States. He and his devoted field-agent assistants are constantly improving the lot of the Negro farmer, always beginning with the proper instruction of youth. They are creating wealth for the region and raising health and educational standards. "Such work is of extreme importance. It is the sort of work to which Tom Campbell has dedicated his life."

## USDA personnel administration

The Office of Personnel has issued "Personnel Administration Development in the USDA—the First 50 Years," by the late Warner W. Stockberger with the assistance of Virginia Brand Smith, bearing the date October 1947. It is available from the USDA Library and you will find it full of quaint and informative historical material. The land-grant college libraries also have copies. It was Dr. Stockberger's conviction that 90 percent of employee relations problems resulted from faulty supervision. The supervisor either ignores the other fellow's point of view and just gives orders or he fails to examine his own supervisory techniques critically. Do times change so much after all?

## Shipping cauliflower

J. Kaufman, H. W. Hrushka, and J. S. Wiant of USDA have completed a Research and Marketing Act study showing that more ice and lighter loads will do much to cut down spoilage of cauliflower in long-distance shipments. If you want more on this write the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column last page, and ask for No. 2172.

## The flag

The American flag does not fly by night. That is the law. So it looks as if Francis Scott Key made a factual error when he wrote "Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there," unless the defenders of Fort McHenry were so busy fighting they forgot to take down the flag that night. But the law permits the flag to fly at night in two places. One is the Capitol building; the other is over the Maryland grave of Francis Scott Key.

## Is your office—desk—neat?

It has been said that an orderly office and desk bespeak an orderly mind, though many undeniably gifted individuals have been profoundly disorderly in more ways than one. One agency recently made a survey of its space only to find that more than one-half the rooms were in various degrees of disorder—papers piled high on desks, typewriters uncovered, books on radiators, and so on. After due warning a later survey will be made to detect improvements, if any. But it is not unique in this matter; other offices in other agencies also fall short. Moreover there is such a thing as incompetent workers keeping desks and offices piled up and even staying overtime to compensate for a guilt-complex that tells them they are not working efficiently or even enough during office hours. How about that?

## Agricultural marketing

The series of lectures on Agricultural Marketing promised by the Graduate School began October 2, at 4 p. m., in Jefferson Auditorium. While you field people can scarcely attend these lectures, they may later be reproduced in some form of value to you, and some of the lecturers are from your own localities. Those to speak are O. V. Wells, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics; F. V. Waugh, Council of Economic Advisors; C. W. Kitchen, United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association; William Applebaum, Stop and Shop, Inc.; Charles E. Eshbach, Extension Service; Max E. Brunk, Cornell; William H. Nichols, Vanderbilt University; Basil Livingston, British Export Trade Research Association; George L. Mehren, University of California; S. R. Smith, Production and Marketing Administration; D. B. DeLoach, BAE; and Representative Clifford R. Hope of Kansas.

## Potato chips

The first potato chips are believed to have been made about 1853; today, according to A. E. Mercker of Production and Marketing Administration, they account for 8 percent of the potatoes used as food in the United States. For years they were made in small lots, at home or in restaurants. In 1949 the chip market required more than 20 million bushels of spuds. Today mass-production mechanical equipment enables the "chippers" first to pare and slice the potato, then move it on an endless belt through two tanks of melted fat, the first of which is very hot and sears them, while the second finishes the cooking job at a more moderate temperature. Chippers test new lots of potatoes by cutting holes in them, then slicing and passing the slices through the processing. They can be identified by the hole and compared with the current lot for color, crispness, and other qualities.

## Writing, speaking, reading

If you are interested in words, writing, speaking, reading, and the chasm developing in this country between spoken and written English, you cannot do better than look up a department in the magazine called "Tomorrow," entitled "American Notebook," by Thomas Sugrue, issue of September 1950, pages 44 to 48.

## Regional cooperatives

Miscellaneous Report 141 from FCA entitled "Handbook on Major Regional Farm Supply Purchasing Cooperatives, 1948-49," says that 2.7 million patrons purchased 847 million dollars worth of farm supplies furnished by 18 major regional farm-supply cooperatives in the United States in 1949. They bought through 8,700 local co-ops and retail outlets. You may get a copy of this report from Division of Information and Extension, Farm Credit Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C.

## Watermelons

Four brothers accused of ruining 200 melons in an Iowa watermelon patch recently sued the owners for \$12,250 in damages. Aged 6 to 10, the brothers claimed the owners had made an untrue and malicious accusation in calling them little rascals and besides one boy broke his arm when he fell into a sand pit while fleeing the patch. This reminds us that former Secretary Wickard, now REA Administrator, found on his recent trip to Alaska that watermelons (from the States) sold at \$8 to \$10 each! He also paid a quarter for the ice in his iced tea, the same for a glass of milk, and found haircuts priced at \$2.

## "Soil Conservation"

In the October issue of this monthly Chief Hugh Bennett of Soil Conservation Service reports on "Progress in Soil Conservation," and Editor Wellington Brink on the attention given to soil problems at the Annual Institute of Conservation, Nutrition, and Health in Chicago. Dr. Bennett carries over into writing, even when assisted, as in this case by R. W. Rogers, some of the inimitable flavor of his expositions of and discourses on his favorite subject, soil conservation. The issue naturally contains other articles of interest. Procure from SCS.

## Lillie honored

Robert J. Lillie, Bureau of Animal Industry nutritionist at Beltsville, Md., has received the annual Poultry Husbandry Research Prize of \$100, made in recognition of the most outstanding work published during the year by one of the association's younger members. Dr. Lillie began his graduate work at Rutgers, transferred to University of Maryland in 1945 and, 2 years later, accepted his present position with BAI while still working for his Ph. D., which he received from Maryland in 1949. His thesis on "Folic Acid in Poultry Nutrition," yielded two publications on the basis of which the award was made.

## Are you a ghost voice?

When you make a mistake in dialing someone on the telephone do you remain silent when the seemingly wrong person answers and hang up saying nothing, not even, "Beg pardon"? Do you drop dead? What becomes of you? Why is it that so many of us forget our manners in a situation where we are unintentionally at fault? Even if you say no more than "Sorry" in such cases that helps. You might be interested to know that a USDA committee under the chairmanship of Carl Colvin of FCA is working right now on a publication to help us improve the handling of inquiries and relations with the public generally, while our Office of Personnel takes a big interest in telephone courtesy and stresses it in many ways.



## An FHA news letter

Our appeal to get on the list of house organs brought in "What's Going On in Farmers Home Administration" which processed news letter appears from Swan Island, Portland, Oreg., and gives a pleasing and good-humored view of FHA work in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska.

## Lily bulb industry

If you want a digest of a talk by Dr. S. L. Emsweller, USDA's lily expert, in which he tells how research is providing new and better lilies to aid a rapidly expanding U. S. bulb industry, write the editor of USDA, name and address bottom last column last page, and ask for No. 2217.

## Induced abnormalities in chicks

Those familiar with the work of W. Landauer at Storrs and similar research on chicks will find interest in "Insulin-Induced Skeletal Abnormalities in Developing Chickens," by P. K. Duraiswami, University of Liverpool, which appears, of all places, in the British Medical Journal for August 12, 1950.

## Growing and selling in Alaska

Two reports dealing with the problems and limitations of farming and of marketing farm products in Alaska have been prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in cooperation with the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station. Titles: "Some Economic Aspects of Farming in Alaska" and "Markets for the Products of Cropland in Alaska."

## Shaddick succeeds Texada

William Thomas Shaddick has succeeded J. A. Texada, Jr., as State Director of Farmers Home Administration for Florida. Mr. Texada retired because of ill health. Mr. Shaddick was State director before from July 1, 1941 until August 13, 1942, when he entered the Navy. Since his release from duty in 1945 he has been managing his own citrus and truck farm.

## Dean Cornell dies

Dr. Ferris Dewey Cornell, dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics at West Virginia University since he succeeded Dr. Clayton R. Orton last summer, died suddenly August 29, aged 52. A native of Pennsylvania who took his undergraduate work at Syracuse University, and his graduate degrees at Cornell, he had for 30 years been a member of West Virginia University's faculty.

## So big!

Forest Service people in California have found a redwood 339 feet tall in Del Norte County, with a diameter of 98 inches outside bark at 20 feet above the ground, the only place it could be measured. The boys hope to find one to top Founder's Tree in Humboldt Redwood State Park which stands 364 feet. They also found in Humboldt County what was regarded as the biggest poison-oak bush in the State, 90 feet high, 6.4 feet diameter-breast-high, and 80 or 90 years old, a huge vine wrapped over a Douglas-fir 150 feet tall. Know any bigger ones?

## Acid fruit and beverages

Do your teeth gradually erode and wash away like the soil SCS is trying to save when you eat acid fruits or drink acid beverages? Work by Carey D. Miller of the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station indicated that it is better to eat the acid fruit than to drink its juice. Miss Miller fed experimental rats grapefruit, guava, Java plum, mango, and pineapple, both as fruit and as juice, and found the latter eroded the dental enamel 3 to 10 times faster than the former. She concluded that acid fruits generally have slight erosive effect on the tooth as compared with the juices extracted therefrom.

## CCC Price Support Program

If you want the status of the Commodity Credit Corporation's Price Support Program, as of July 31 last, digested on two sides of one page, write the editor of USDA, name and address in last column last page, and ask for No. 2199.

## Poinsettias

If you would like some information by USDA scientists on how to make poinsettia plants bloom with precision at Christmas, and the rigid light schedule required, write the editor of USDA, address at bottom last column page 4, and ask for No. 2159.

## CCC surplus-stock distribution

If you are interested in the distribution of Commodity Credit Corporation's surplus stocks under Section 416 of the Agricultural Act of 1949, the quantities distributed, and the private welfare organizations which received donations for foreign relief, write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2208.

## Frozen food lockers

Farm Credit Administration finds in a recent survey that the number of frozen food locker plants on January 1, 1950 was double that in midsummer 1945. This was a Research and Marketing Act project and, if you want further details about the results of the study, write the editor of USDA, and ask for No. 2135.

## Animal fats survey

Because both edible and inedible animal fats are in large surplus and we need more information on the kind and amount of research being done in this field, USDA has contracted with John W. McCutcheon, a private industrial consultant of New York City, to survey and appraise research and its accomplishments over the past 20 years in the field of animal fats, and to recommend the direction future studies should take. For further information write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2162.

## Central America's new industry

Central America is building a new industry around the African oil palm. Whereas only 70 to 75 pounds of cottonseed oil can be obtained annually per acre, and the corresponding figure for soybean oil is about 170, and for peanuts from 215 to 220 pounds, 2,500 pounds of palm oil per acre may be produced annually under favorable conditions. Contrast this with 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of coconut oil derived annually from processing coconuts on an acre. If you want to know more about this crop, get from our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, Foreign Agriculture Report No. 52, August 1950, entitled "African Oil Palm in Central America," by Douglas M. Crawford.

## ACP Program

The 1951 Agricultural Conservation Program has been announced, and the master list of approved practices from which Production and Marketing Administration local committees will make selections for use in their States is out. Handbooks giving specifications for approved practices are prepared by the States to acquaint farmers with those available to them in 1951. Since passage of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act in 1936 this program has aided farmers to seed 51 million acres of grasses and legumes; to apply 260 million tons of lime and 24 million of superphosphate to stimulate growth of soil-conserving crops; to construct more than a million dams to provide water for livestock and check losses from uncontrolled water; to grow 255 million acres of cover and green manure crops; and to protect 130 million acres of cropland by contouring and 70 million acres more by strip cropping. Also 850,000 acres of trees have been planted. Nearly 3 million farmers participate in this program in the 48 States, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii.

## Sweetpotato keeping quality

If you want some new facts on so handling sweetpotatoes at harvesttime as to improve their keeping quality, write the editor of USDA for a digest of some results of research by J. M. Lutz and J. K. Park of USDA; ask for No. 2197.

## Agricultural research

Federal appropriations for agricultural research during the 1950 fiscal year approximated 59 million dollars, of which 47 million was allotted to USDA agencies and 12 to the State experiment stations. The States themselves provided more than 40 million dollars for agricultural research making the grand total, Federal-State, about 100 million. The USDA conducts research at more than 400 field locations in the United States and also in about 30 foreign countries. The States and Territories maintain approximately 325 research centers. The USDA has approximately 4,100 scientists engaged in research and the States have a scientific personnel of about 5,900, of which 2,900 are engaged in research full-time and the remainder divide their time between research, extension, and teaching.

## And could she type?

We are indebted to The United States Civil Service Commission's Employee Bulletin, an out-of-hours publication, for this sample of what an applicant typed for the Assembled Rating Section of their Second Region—and then she wrote in to ask why she received such a low rating on typing. The applicant now takes over thus: "This cracked-ice exercise is similar in firm and in difficulty to the 1 that you will be required to typewriter for the plane copy pest. You are to trace, CAPITALIZE, punctuate? smell, and begin and send each line precisely as in the poppy. Make erasures, incisions, or other chances in this pest because errors will be penalized even if they are erased or otherwise collected. Cracked-ice typewriting this material on hatched paper until the examiner tells you to hop rememberint that for this examination it is more important for you to typewrite accutely than to typewriter rapidly."

## We hope to tell you

In our effort to find important USDA people with unique or unusual occupations we appealed to Forest Service. It at once cited Seth Jackson, who saves lives and limbs; Dr. Miriam Bomhard, who is an authority on palm trees; C. A. Gustafson, who runs an 8,000-man fire department; Ira J. Mason, who produces 10-15 percent of the Nation's timber supply; M. B. Bruce, who gets 45 million trees planted annually; Walt Dutton, a supercowboy who rides herd on the grazing of 9 million head of livestock; Lloyd Swift, who nurses along one-third of all the big game animals in the United States; John Sieker, who looks after 24 million folk in search of recreation, and Leta Hughey, a dendrological artist. Nor is that all! As time and space permit we shall interview some of these people and we hope to tell you about their work for the Nation's agriculture in the field of forestry. Just give us time.

## October 11, 1950, Vol. IX, No. 21

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR OCTOBER 25, 1950

## 150 million bosses

"I WORK FOR 150 million people," said Secretary Brannan when asked for whom he worked. He continued:

Our initial responsibility is to the farmers of the United States, but we are also responsible to all of our citizens who are consumers of the food and fiber the farmers produce. As taxpayers they actually pay the salaries of all of us Government employees.

This is one reason we should know about the various ways in which the Department of Agriculture serves the public. No one person can be familiar with all of the detailed operation of the various administrations, corporations, services, and agencies that make up our Department of Agriculture. But we can develop a knowledge of what functions these various segments of the Department perform and who in these organizations can give the information that is being sought.

By knowing our own job well and how our work fits into the over-all operations of the Department we can best be in a position to serve the public. Thus the farmer, the housewife, the businessman, or whoever the contact may be with, will receive prompt, efficient service. To the public this is very important because one contact—whether personal, by telephone, or by letter—may be the only opportunity to form an opinion of the Government worker. It is certainly in our interest to have that opinion favorable. After all, the person who contributes to our pay check is entitled to the best we can give him.

The National Agricultural and Rural Family Living Conference will be held in Washington, D. C., October 30 to November 3, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, Defense, and State delegates participating. Attendance of this Outlook Conference should be well worth your time.

### New publications

Circular 567 (revised) is by A. H. Frank of Bureau of Animal Industry, and is entitled "Artificial Insemination in Livestock Breeding." \* \* \* New Agriculture Information Bulletin 15 from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics is "Rice Preferences Among Household Consumers." \* \* \* New Miscellaneous Publication 110 is a "Glossary of Botanical Terms Commonly Used in Range Research," compiled by W. A. Dayton of Forest Service. \* \* \* Service and Regulatory Announcements 156 from Production and Marketing Administration gives the "Rules and Regulations Under the Federal Seed Act."

## County ag center

WHEN FARMERS in Yell County, Ark., have business to transact with one of their four agricultural agencies, they go into a new 110-by-40-foot, one-story building completed July 1, 1950. It is the Yell County War Memorial Agricultural Building in Danville, housing Soil Conservation Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Farmers Home Administration. The modern structure is the result of plans first worked out by FHA County Supervisor J. Raymond Pledger and the heads of the other agencies, in cooperation with leading farmers and businessmen. Pledger worked closely with County Judge Morris Moore who helped convince the Quorum Court that the building would be a public asset. This Court, made up of the justices of the peace, is similar to a county commission in some other States. It has jurisdiction over spending county funds. The new building cost \$14,500 and was paid for with reserve funds of the county.

FHA engineers provided engineering services and advice, working Saturdays and evenings. FHA State Director J. V. Highfill of Little Rock says he hopes the Yell County project will set the pattern for many other communities. Danville and Yell County citizens are proud of their achievement and feel they have taken a lead in constructing a building to house, rent-free, all agencies identified with the county's agricultural development. Mr. Highfill reports, "The building represents not only a memorial to those patriots who gave their lives in World War II, but it also represents a memorial to the cooperation which can be brought about by careful planning and unselfish devotion to a worth-while project in a rural area."

## PMA for defense

THE DEFENSE Production Act of 1950 assigned certain functions to the USDA which were in turn assigned to Production and Marketing Administration. In general, PMA's existing commodity and action branches and offices were given basic responsibility for developing and carrying out programs and activities in their normal fields of operation, and local administration is to be carried out through PMA's State and local committees of farmers and its regional commodity and field offices. However, the following new units were established as of September 20:

The Office of Requirements and Allocations, under F. Marion Rhodes, will serve as the central coordinating point for the development and determination of over-all food-supply availability and requirements, allocations, production adjustments, and related programs. The Office of Materials and Facilities, under L. B. Taylor, will supervise over-all determination of requirements for machinery, equipment, materials, and services needed in the production, processing, transportation, and handling of food and agricultural commodities.

The Administrator's Program Staff, under Harry I. Dunkleberger, will assist the Office of the Administrator in developing and coordinating defense program policies and plans. The Price Staff, under J. Murray Thompson, will be responsible for evaluations and recommendations on price questions. The former Food Distribution Programs Branch has been given broadened responsibilities under Leonard R. Trainer for determining civilian food supply needs and directing cooperative programs and operations concerned with food supply and distribution, and has been renamed the Food Distribution Branch. The former Price Support and Foreign Supply Branch and the former program management staff have been abolished and their functions and responsibilities reassigned. If you want more details write the editor of *USDA*, address in last column, last page, and ask for No. 2294.

### LAWS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

The new October 15, 1950, issue of *USDA* Document No. 2, "Abridged List of Federal Laws Applicable to Agriculture," is ready for distribution. It gives very brief digests of the most important legislation affecting agriculture through to the recess of the Second Session, Eighty-first Congress, September 23, 1950. Actions after November 27, when Congress reconvenes, will be listed in next year's issue. To get copies write the editor of *USDA*, address at end of last column.



## Dr. Warburton dead

CLYDE W. WARBURTON, first Federal Director of Extension Work, died on September 22, in Washington, D. C., aged 70. A native of Iowa, Dr. Warburton spent most of his boyhood on a farm in Buchanan County. He graduated from Iowa State in 1902, and in 1925, was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by his alma mater.

Dr. Warburton joined the Office of Farm Management in 1903 as a scientific aid. From 1904 to 1906, he supervised demonstration farms in Texas for that office, transferring in 1907 to the Office of Cereal Investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry. In 1911, he left the Department to become associate editor of *The Farmer*, published in St. Paul, but returned to BPI in 1912 in charge of oats investigations. He was given supervision of all agronomic cereal research in 1918, and, during the First World War and later, was in charge of emergency seed loans.

In 1923, when the USDA Extension Service was organized, Dr. Warburton was appointed Director of Extension Work. He had charge of the program that took the Department's findings and recommendations to the farms and farm homes of the Nation through the county extension agents. He is largely responsible for the present organization of the Cooperative Extension Service. On February 1, 1940, he accepted appointment as Deputy Governor of the Farm Credit Administration, and remained in that position until his retirement in 1946.

## Training to retire

MANY LARGE industrial concerns now train their personnel to retire! Not all job satisfactions can be carried over by retirees. Some of them find perfect contentment in church, social, or community-betterment work, others in gardening or other hobbies, and a few thoroughly enjoy just plain loafing. But to make the most out of retirement, employees should carry over to their new estate certain feelings of activity, usefulness, importance, and achievement; they must have the sense of belonging and of doing something creative, and they usually desire companionship. So often those who have retired find retirement the most miserable existence imaginable.

To prevent that, group preretirement counseling is undertaken by many large industrial concerns. Earlier information

has been supplied on provisions for financial security, insurance and annuities, and the maintenance of health. But 5 years prior to retirement regular counseling begins in planning retirement and on the physical aspects of aging, with thorough discussion of alternative occupations and types of activity. The necessity for these steps has often been brought home to industry by the sad estate of various executives who had to be assisted into other jobs after periods of unhappiness in retirement.

## New pest pioneers

PROBABLY YOU never saw a nematode and wouldn't recognize one if you did. The nematode is a small worm, usually invisible to the naked eye, but don't underestimate its importance as a pest and pathogen. It occurs in many types and countless individuals are present in soils everywhere. Its diversity in methods of attack on plants cannot safely be ignored. Though microscopic, its significance must not be underrated. So says Dr. G. Steiner who heads the Division of Nematology, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

It is always difficult to prove that a nematode of a certain sort causes disease. Unlike most bacteria and fungi, most classes of nematodes cannot be cultured artificially. They are migratory and hard for experimenters to keep track of, and they usually do not kill their host outright, but set up an insidious debilitation, thus draining away the farmers' profit. Nematologists and other scientists have been classifying the various kinds of nematodes on the basis of the crops they kill, searching for effective chemicals to kill the worms, and devising trap crops to lure them from our main crops. Nematologists of the plant branch are modern pest pioneers with all the seasoned curiosity and boundless enthusiasm this implies.

## "Forage and Pasture Crops"

This is a general reference work including under one cover comprehensive basic information on all grasses and legumes used as forage and pasture crops in the U. S., by W. A. Wheeler, agronomist and seed marketing specialist, retired from USDA in 1946, now a USDA collaborator, and Director of Agricultural Research, Field Seed Institute of North America. This book is a most valuable reference text for schools, colleges, extension workers, county agents, farmers, and stockmen. In its preparation many Federal and State agronomists assisted Mr. Wheeler and reviewed the manuscript. It was prepared under the auspices of the Field Seed Institute of North America, and published by D. Van Nostrand Co., 250 Fourth Avenue, New York City, 750 pp.; price \$8.

## Work hours

OUR CONGRESS ON JULY 4, 1836, provided that the executive departments should be open for the transaction of public business 8 hours each day from October 1 until April 1, and 10 hours each day April 1 to October 1, Sundays and Christmas Day alone excepted. In time this act came to be widely disregarded, some departments being open only 7 and one only 6 hours a day. A new act of June 30, 1874, required that all employees serve as many hours daily as the dispatch of public business required but not in excess of those prescribed in the previous law.

March 3, 1883, the hours were fixed at 7 per day, though heads of departments might further extend or limit them, so each department proceeded to fix its own hours. Congress reenacted this law almost verbatim March 3, 1893, but fixed the hours at 7. Annual and sick leave then ran 30 days each per calendar year. When special or rush work was to be done the 7 hours frequently were extended by special order. At one time when the Secretary forbade entry to Department buildings outside of official hours the chief chemist successfully protested this would seriously impede chemical research.

In 1898 existing legislation was so modified that the Secretary could not reduce hours below 7, though he might extend them beyond this. Next New Year's Day, Washington's Birthday, July 4, Decoration Day, Labor Day, Inauguration Day, and Thanksgiving were declared holidays. Secretary Wilson directed that employees who could be spared be dismissed at 3 p. m. on Saturdays during the heated period, and on June 9, 1909, an Executive order gave employees Saturday afternoon off from 1 p. m. during July, August, and September, later changed from the middle of June to the middle of September. The prescribed hours for work were 9 to 4 with 30 minutes for lunch until 30 minutes were added January 8, 1904, making closing time 4:30 p. m. The rest of this story you undoubtedly know.

## "Popular Books"

This recent book by James D. Hart says George Washington was once a book salesman; he sold 200 copies of "The American Savage: How He May Be Tamed by the Weapons of Civilization," in and around Alexandria, Va. It also reveals that: Tom Paine's "Common Sense" sold 100,000 copies in 3 months during 1776; "Huckleberry Finn" was the first book banned in Massachusetts; the publishers of "Ben Hur" were allowed to quote President Garfield as a sales aid and at one time an edition of the book bound in silk and priced at \$30 sold well.



# Brief but important

## Production potential

We recommend the article, "Our Agricultural Potential," by Sherman E. Johnson in September 1950 Agricultural Situation, available from Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## Poultry and egg markets

A new report entitled "Wholesale Poultry and Egg Markets in 30 Cities," is available from Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration; write in, or phone Ext. 5223.

## MacAloney assumes new duties

Dr. Harvey J. MacAloney has been selected by Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine to have immediate supervision over the forest insect survey provided for by the Forest Pest Control Act of 1947. He has had 25 years' experience in USDA on various forest insect and survey problems.

## Properties of fabrics

"Physical Properties of Plated Fabrics Knit of Cotton, Wool, Viscose Rayon, and Nylon," is new Circular No. 848 from the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. It is by Hazel M. Fletcher of HNHE and Arnold M. Hansen and Mary Ellen Duensing formerly of that Bureau. Send 10 cents to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, to obtain this.

## Rules of Order

Rural Electrification Administration has gotten out a booklet entitled "Rules of Order" (PA-118) giving a simplified parliamentary procedure for use in business meetings of its co-ops. The Bureau of Naval Personnel, U. S. Navy, has also just issued a humorously illustrated pamphlet entitled "Conference Sense"; it is intended for the use of the uniformed personnel, but might offer civilians some suggestions.

## Nutritive value of corn

"Improvement of Nutritive Value of Corn by Plant Breeding and Selection," a documented review in Nutrition Reviews for August 1950, tells something about pioneering research on breeding corn of higher nutritive value. Apparently the oil, protein, and vitamin content of corn can be favorably affected by genetic procedures. Work by some USDA investigators like F. D. Richey is mentioned in the review.

## Davis gets Littauer Fellowship

James B. Davis of Production and Marketing Administration has been granted a Littauer Fellowship to do graduate work in the Department of Public Administration at Harvard this winter. He will engage with others in basic research on agricultural financing, credit, tax laws, and the use of conservation techniques in farming, the findings to be published in a report for the use of legislators, agricultural planning groups, and others.

## Visitors to BDI

Visitors to the Bureau of Dairy Industry at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., during the months of June, July, and August 1950, totaled 2,024. They came from 47 States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and 33 foreign countries, as follows: Algeria, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Eire, England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Wales.

## Brigham Award

The Reuben Brigham Memorial Award, given each year by the Association of Agricultural College Editors to a noncollege editor who has rendered distinguished service to agriculture, went this year to Kirk Fox, editor of Successful Farming.

## Better than it sounds

"Working Together," a new booklet explaining the activities, history, and composition of the Joint Department of Agriculture-Land-Grant Colleges Association Committee on Training for Government Service has been published. Though the title is almost as long as the booklet, the booklet really is better, and deserves your attention. It has pictures too. Contact your own personnel officer to get copies.

## "P. A." of BDI

Philip Anson Wright, widely known to his colleagues as "P. A.," analytical chemist in Bureau of Dairy Industry, died September 13 at his home in Washington, D. C., aged 63. He had but recently returned to work after a pleasant 3-month vacation. A native of Vermont, he was educated at Middlebury College, Yale, and Missouri. Most of his professional life was spent in BDI where he worked some 36 years. Genial and lovable, his passing will bring much regret to many friends.

## Proposed Boston market

A report entitled "The Wholesale Produce Markets at Boston, Mass.," shows that an estimated saving of 4 million dollars annually in the distribution of perishable foods in Boston would result from construction of a new wholesale produce market as proposed in a Research and Marketing Act project carried on by Production and Marketing Administration. The study was requested by the food trades and the Commonwealth Market Authority of Massachusetts. Get the report from PMA's Information Branch: Write or phone Ext. 5223.

## Bonney Youngblood

Dr. Youngblood has retired as agricultural economist and rural sociologist for Office of Experiment Stations after 28 years of service in USDA and another 17 as director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. He first entered the Bureau of Plant Industry in October 1907, as a special agent serving directly under Dr. W. J. Spillman who was then in charge of farm management investigations. Dr. Youngblood directed the Texas Station from August 1911 until May 1928, entering OES on March 1, 1929. He is an expert on the life and economy of the Navaho Indians. He has been the representative of OES in its relations with the State experiment stations on research in agricultural economics and rural sociology.

## PISAE retirements

Recent retirements from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering include Earl D. Fowler, a graduate of Earlham College, from soil survey work, after 30 years of service; August L. Nelson, after 32 years, as superintendent of the Archer Field Experiment Station, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Leslie L. Zook, a graduate of University of Nebraska, from dry-land research at North Platte, Nebr., after 42 years of service; Julius Matz, a native of Lithuania and a graduate of Massachusetts State and Johns Hopkins, as pathologist, after service since 1916; and Helena E. Spraker, who began work as a stenographer to David Fairchild and retired as administrative assistant to the Bureau Chief, Dr. Salter, after 39 years of service.

## Improved grocery check-out counter

You will find a description of the new type of grocery check-out counter devised in Production and Marketing Administration under Research and Marketing Act authority in October "Marketing Activities," in an article by E. M. Harwell and Paul F. Shaffer. For a digest of the article write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2289; you get Marketing Activities from Information Branch, PMA.

## Hoagland of BAI retired

Ralph Hoagland, biochemist in Bureau of Animal Industry's nutrition laboratory, and a former associate of Marion Dorset in the old Biochemic Division, has retired after 40 years with his agency. A native of Minnesota and a graduate of the University of Minnesota, he entered BAI 2 years later, in 1906. He served continuously except for 1909-13 during which time he was professor of agricultural chemistry and soils at his alma mater.

## Littleleaf disease of pines

Dr. George H. Hepting of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and George M. Jemison of Forest Service say that, in 1950, this disease will kill 5 million dollars' worth of pulpwood and saw timber, mostly of the shortleaf variety. It is considered the worst pest to hit the 7 southern States since chestnut blight. While its actual cause has not yet been fully determined, it begins to look as if a nitrogen deficiency which shows up when feeder roots are damaged by a certain fungus may be it. If you want more details on this research which may finally release 30 million acres of shortleaf and loblolly pine from the grip of the mysterious littleleaf disease, write the editor of USDA and ask for No. 2275.

## New books

"Patterns of Publicity Copy" is a new book from the University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Okla., priced at \$2.75. Written by Stewart Harral, writer, lecturer, and publicist, it tells how to put your news releases to work for you. Each step in the creation of copy is discussed from idea, research, and editing to the final draft. You will find in it suggestive ideas on preparing effective news releases. \* \* \* Technical standards people in Rural Electrification Administration tell us that the new edition of a book from John Wiley & Sons, "Electricity in the Home and on the Farm," by Forrest B. Wright, is a good nontechnical volume aimed primarily at vocational agricultural students. The new edition contains additional material on alternating current, standard voltage equipment, and alternating current motors. Dr. Wright is professor of agricultural engineering at Cornell's College of Agriculture.

## "Type writers" and telephones

Skill in penmanship and letter writing were important qualifications for USDA employees in 1879, when Commissioner of Agriculture Gen. Wm. G. LeDuc wrote Gen. F. D. Dent as follows: "Mrs. Dent who has come over to the office this morning to capture everything in it desires to inform you that she has been quite successful and is now anxious to have a letter printed to you on the Type Writer." For the first time the Department, along with the Executive Mansion and a few other Government agencies appeared that year in the local telephone directory; 121 telephones were in use in Washington, D. C., in 1879! In 1895 Secretary Morton had all telephones removed except one to connect with outside and installed an independent system in the USDA's several buildings. Chiefs of division then had to go to the telephone in the main hall had to their building to take and receive calls.



## They say—

Some people just barely get by. Others get on.

## Dairy exports to Venezuela

You may procure the report of a Research and Marketing Act study by George H. Day, entitled "Outlook for Imports of U. S. Dairy Products in Venezuela," by writing the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA, or phoning Ext. 2445.

## Bulb and plant imports

Chief Avery S. Hoyt of Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine calls attention to the requirements of a recent amendment to plant import regulations about which some of you might like to know. If so, write Press Service, USDA, and ask for No. 2274.

## "It's for you!"

The first rural telephone facilities placed in operation as a result of financing by REA got going September 20 in Fredericksburg, Va. Ceremonies were held to mark the change-over from old-fashioned hand-cranked phones to modern dial equipment. Many new subscribers also were connected. For more details contact Rural Electrification Administration.

## Our welfare activities

That place you may have seen in Mrs. Roosevelt's column on the swell recreational job being done in the USDA at Washington, D. C., eulogized Charles H. Cunningham and his associates in welfare activities, though without naming them. If you are interested in such related activities as are carried on in Washington, D. C., address the Welfare Association, USDA.

## 74 years of service

Two employees of the Office of Budget and Finance retired recently with a combined total of 74 years of Federal service, 67 of which was in USDA: Miss Mary F. Walsh and Mrs. Ruth H. Brandon. The former had 42 years of service and entered USDA in September 1908; the latter 32 years, which began with the War Department in 1918 and with USDA in 1925.

## Shipping cantaloups

When jumbo crates of California cantaloups were loaded on-end, instead of lengthwise as usual, bruising of the fruit during shipment was reduced by one-half. If you want to know more about preliminary results on test shipments of 16 carloads studied by the Western Growers Association and the USDA, jointly, write the editor of *USDA*, address in last column last page, and ask for No. 2271.

## County agents and their facts

The September issue of "The County Officer," circulating among county officials throughout the U. S., features an article, "Where County Agents Get Their Facts," by R. W. Trullinger, Chief, Office of Experiment Stations, and Assistant Research Administrator. The three-way relationships between research, teaching, and extension on the land-grant college campus are clearly defined. The article also emphasizes the close relationship between USDA and State experiment station research, and outlines how extension and research are in partnership all the way from Washington to the county grassroots. Dr. Frank Monahan, 1616 I Street NW., Washington, D. C., edits *The County Officer*.

## Perfect sentence

Remember the sentence called by Alexander Woollcott the most beautiful in the English language, quoted from the journal of Sir Francis Drake on the day he first saw the Pacific? Drake wrote: "God grant that I may sail once in an English ship upon that sea."

## Field news

Our request for staff letters from the field has also flushed "Staff Notes" from the California Forest and Range Experiment Station, Forest Service, and "Feature Highlights Assembled," from Farmers Home Administration in Columbia, Mo., both of which are appreciated.

## Congo melon

The Congo disease-resistant watermelon developed at the U. S. Vegetable Breeding Laboratory, Charleston, S. C., is making a very good impression down in that State, as are other disease-resistant strains produced by the same Laboratory. For one thing Congo doesn't sunburn easily.

## Certified alfalfa seed

We have copies of a statement by Assistant Chief M. A. McCall of Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering on experience with certified seed of Ranger, Buffalo, and Atlantic alfalfa which have been found to perform satisfactorily in Midwest and Eastern areas, regardless of where the seed were produced. For more details write the editor of *USDA*, address at bottom of last column last page, and ask for No. 2329.

## Fun in those days

A Federal statistician who retired recently after nearly 50 years of service looked back upon days when Government offices closed at 4 p. m. and if employees left at 2:30 p. m., that was OK too. If they did leave they went "to a place called Costello's at Sixth and G Streets NW., \* \* \* where for 5 cents they indulged in a foaming beverage and got a salad, potato chips, sliced ham, and other eats free." Said he, "It was fun to work for the Government then."

## Whalen retired

John T. Whalen, assistant chief of PMA's Office of Personnel Services, has retired after almost 40 years of Government service, beginning in 1907 as a messenger boy in the Government Printing Office. In 1916 Mr. Whalen transferred to Army War College and, in 1925, left Government to become service manager of a department store in Washington, his native city. He returned in 1928 as an employee of Treasury and Justice and, in 1933, transferred to AAA; he held successively more responsible positions in personnel there and in PMA until his retirement.

## ACE meeting

The perkier and best meeting the Agricultural College Editors ever held took place during early September at Mo-Ranch on the Guadalupe River in the heart of the Texas hill country, with Louis Franke as host editor. Marjorie Arbour, extension editor for Louisiana, was elected the new president, the first such of her sex, succeeding Earl Richardson of Michigan. The new vice president is George Church of Oklahoma and Cal Anderson of Washington is the new Secretary-Treasurer. New executive officers elected were Joe McClelland of Arizona and Allan Smith of Kentucky. Cornell placed first in the exhibit sweepstakes in which 40 States and Hawaii participated, and 178 attended from 31 States, the District of Columbia, and Sweden. The invitation of Hadley Read of Illinois for next year's meeting was accepted.

## Grain Storage Program

If interested in the way in which the Grain Storage Program of Commodity Credit Corporation has increased the Nation's facilities in this field, you can get full information by writing Press Service, USDA, and requesting No. 2318.

## Point IV study in Liberia

Dr. Clayton R. Orton, a former director of the West Virginia Experiment Station and dean of that State's College of Agriculture, is now in Liberia under the Point IV program to undertake a study of the country's agricultural development potentials. You can get more details on this by writing Press Service, USDA, and requesting No. 2339.

## Food thrift notes

When the price of a dozen small eggs is less than that of 1 pound of lean beef the former are the cheaper source of main-dish protein. A half-pound of Cheddar cheese provides about the same quantity of protein as a pound of meat with a moderate amount of fat and bone. Potato, protein is improved nutritionally when served with cheese, milk, eggs, fish, meat, and such high-protein foods.

## Flexible farm houses

Robert Dodge, a USDA architect, does not advise constructing the farm home out of rubber, but he does say that use flexibility should be the first aim in designing any small home. Plan so that space can be used for more than one activity without denial of privacy and spaciousness. For instance, houses built with trussed roofs and concrete slab floor may have partitions that can be moved at low cost when interior changes are needed. The luxury of single-use areas like dining and guest rooms, as well as large halls, oversize work and utility rooms, and elaborate built-in equipment and cabinet work may not be possible in low-cost homes. The original plan should always permit easy building on as the family or funds grow.

## BAE awards

Raymond P. Christensen of Bureau of Agricultural Economics received an award and a cash prize of \$250 at the annual meeting of the American Farm Economics Association, Montreat, N. C., this summer. Basis of the award was research published in *USDA Technical Bulletin No. 963, "Efficient Use of Food Resources to Meet Food Needs."* The two other awards for outstanding research in this class went for D. Gale Johnson's book, "Forward Pricing," and for the late Leonard A. Salter's book, "Land Economics." Charles R. Sayre, a BAE alumnus, received one of three awards for the best doctoral thesis in agricultural economics during the 3 years 1947 to 1949; it was presented at Harvard and entitled "Economics of Mechanization of Cotton Production."

Write the editor of *USDA* for facts about how the so-called leave rider may affect you and your leave. Use name and address below.

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR NOVEMBER 8, 1950

## The President at the phone

THE NEWLY installed dial telephone of Virginia dairy farmer Eugene Dickinson shrilled on the afternoon of September 20 and the Air Corps veteran gulped, stammered and took a deep breath at what he heard: "This is Harry Truman at the White House—". It was probably the most widely overheard and publicized rural telephone call in history. The occasion was the first cut-over of a Rural Electrification Administration-financed rural telephone system to modernized service. The President chatted away country-style with Mr. and Mrs. Dickinson as part of the celebration of the occasion. The Dickinsons, like 130 other rural families around Fredericksburg, Va., were getting telephone service for the first time. In 170 other homes in the area the old hand-cranked wall phone was being pulled out and replaced by modern dial instruments.

At the Fredericksburg Agricultural Fair, oldest in America, REA Telephone Day was being celebrated and several thousand listened entranced as the Presidential telephone conversation was broadcast over a loud speaker system. This country-line telephone conversation hit the front pages. Radio networks broadcast and rebroadcast it as a choice bit of Americana; the Voice of America short-waved it behind the Iron Curtain, and television fans both saw and heard the Dickinson end of the conversation.

The Fredericksburg & Wilderness Telephone Co., established in 1908, obtained an REA telephone loan in April to extend lines to unserved farms, to install an automatic switchboard, and to rehabilitate its existing lines and install modern dial telephones. By mid-September the job was almost completed. Mrs. Hazel Tiffany, who had served as "central" for 27 years retired. Party lines that formerly had 20 subscribers now had only 4. Farmers owning television sets got excited when they were able to get a phone for the first time.

### Anybody want these?

We still have a few copies each of the following, if any of you want to write in to the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, last page, and request by title: Agriculture, Industry, and Steel; Atomic Energy and the Citizen; Can We Learn To Live Together; Is Our Ground Water Drying Up; The Moral Obligation To Be Intelligible; National Foundation Seed Program; Panel Discussion on Important Management Problems Facing the USDA; The Place of Science in a Free Society; Public Speaking; When You Introduce a Speaker; Some of My Best Friends are Scientists; and Some Ideas on Rapid Reading—all previously offered through *USDA*. They're yours, as long as they last; write in or phone Ext. 4649.

## For superior work

PAY INCREASES for superior accomplishment and Certificates of Merit were recently awarded employees, as indicated below:

*Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry:* PEGGY D. BAIRD, chemist, Peoria, Ill.; JEANNE P. OLWELL, clerk-stenographer, Albany, Calif.

*Farmers Home Administration:* EUGENE M. DENNEY, farm management supervisor, Ontario, Oreg.; RUTH I. HUFF, personnel clerk (stenography), Portland, Oreg.

*Forest Service:* EINAR E. AAMODT, fire prevention engineer, Roscommon, Mich.; GLENN FLATHERS, forester (administration), Camp Crook, S. Dak.; RALPH L. HAND, forester (fire control), Missoula, Mont.; HELEN OBST, clerk, Milwaukee, Wis.; EDWARD W. SCHULTZ, forester (administration), Cleveland National Forest, San Diego, Calif.; KARL M. HERRMANN, fire-control aid (look-out), Upper Michigan National Forest, Milwaukee, Wis.; ANTON MAKI, foreman of construction and maintenance, Ottawa National Forest, Milwaukee, Wis.; SHIRLEY G. SANDSTROM, forestry aid (general), Upper Michigan National Forest, Milwaukee, Wis.; HAZEL B. STOUT, fiscal accounting and auditing clerk, Mississippi National Forest, Atlanta, Ga.

*Production and Marketing Administration:* WILLIAM P. JONES, records analyst, San Francisco, Calif.

*Soil Conservation Service:* WILLIAM J. BROZZO, soil conservation aid, Scottsville, Mich.; WALTER I. CONERLY, soil conservation aid, Tylertown, Miss.; MORRIS BYRD, soil conservationist (operations), Ashdown Ark.; ROY E. BALLARD, soil conservationist (operations), Salem, N. J.

## Englund back

Dr. Eric Englund has succeeded Dr. A. Rex Johnson, who resigned to become a professor of marketing at University of Maryland, as assistant director, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. A native of Sweden, and a graduate of Oregon State, with advanced degrees from Wisconsin and Harvard, he has been agricultural attaché in Sweden and Finland for the past 4 years, and is a well-known authority on agricultural economics and finance. He joined USDA as a field agent in 1919, then taught at Wisconsin and Kansas State, and became a member of the finance committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce in 1926. He entered the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 1928, was its Assistant Chief from 1930 to 1942, when he became chief of FAR's Regional Investigations Branch. He has been a member of important international committees and, in 1948, was named food and agriculture officer to the ECA mission in Sweden.

## Things seen in Europe

CATHERINE V. SHEA of the Office of the Secretary had a look at Europe this summer and was impressed with the esthetic features of Swiss farms, each with its flower garden and most with brilliantly flowering potted plants. First prize for tidiness went to the Swiss, and the fine farm lay-outs, plus the beauty of the surrounding mountains, gave the country its almost unreal post-card-like quality. If there was erosion, the cure didn't seem to be contouring as the land tends strongly to the perpendicular, but Miss Shea saw none. The vineyards of France, Italy, and Switzerland also seemed fine to her novice eye, but she has yet to recover from amazement at seeing vineyards planted in man-made containing terraces on steep mountainsides a self-respecting goat declined to climb.

She continued: "The olive trees in Italy are really beautiful with their silvery gray-green leaves. I didn't see peaches growing there, but those served whole, along with grapes, figs, and other fruit, were lovely specimens and also delicious." Wine from the grapes of Orvieto in Italy, the Vallais area of Switzerland, and almost anywhere in France pleased her group. Excellent cheeses were everywhere.

I didn't see a single pig in Switzerland, France, Holland, or Belgium, nor a tractor, large or small. Did see a few pigs in Italy and, finally, one tractor. There were very few cattle anywhere in Europe compared with what one sees here in our Middle and Southwest. . . . Almost everywhere oxen, pure white and very docile in appearance, worked in the fields and pulled loaded wagons to market. In Italy and France one sees many tiny donkeys, some grey, some dark brown, with black markings and almost white noses—all pulling more than would seem to be their fair share.

Miss Shea traveled by bus, which gives a good close-up. She visited the Paris home of W. G. Fynn, formerly of AAA, and found Kenneth Nicholson acquiring culture in the Louvre.



## Negro farmers progress

THE ADVANTAGES of diversified farming are beginning to be realized by Negro farmers in terms of better living, reports Sherman Briscoe, Office of Information, who recently returned from a 5-week tour of duty in the deep South. He noted marked home improvement in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. For example, in one Texas community near Hempstead, eight colored farm families were adding bathrooms to their homes. And in Alabama, where the Tuskegee low-cash-cost concrete-block housing program is catching on, more than 100 colored families have built with concrete block within the past 2 years. While most of the families make their own blocks, some buy them. In fact, numbers of 4-H Club members now think of a pig or calf project in terms of the concrete blocks they will be able to buy out of their profits when these animals are sold.

In Union County, Ark., the home demonstration agent, Mrs. Margaret P. Williams, has launched a county-wide home-improvement program which is meeting with marked success. Well-built cottages dot every community there. It is believed that the home improvements being made by colored farmers are attributable primarily to the more secure incomes these farmers are now receiving from their increasingly diversified farming programs which provide more than one source of cash income. Some farmers, especially those in dairying and truck, have something to sell year-round instead of staking everything on one crop return. Another factor is the good home-improvement example set by the Farmers Home Administration which has lifted thousands of farmers out of share-cropper shacks and started them on the road to ownership of farms and modern homes. Still another is Extension Service's increased emphasis on home improvements. Three States—Georgia, Alabama, and Texas—have placed Negro housing specialists on their Extension staffs. For more details write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2292 or phone Ext. 4649.

## Sawfly depredations

WHAT IS now called the wheat-stem sawfly in the Great Plains got its start in life by forming tunnels in the stalks of native grasses, but when wheat came along the insect found it to be a much more favored host. The fly has become a serious pest of the Montana and North

Dakota wheat crops. The lady sawflies have a sawlike egg-laying apparatus that enables them to place their eggs within the wheat stems. The damage comes when the worms hatch and tunnel their way through the stems, weakening them and reducing yield, and when they girdle the stems near the ground surface so that they break off when the grain heads become heavy.

Ordinary insecticides are impractical for sawfly control, but early harvesting, or rotation of wheat with barley, oats, flax, corn, and mustard—which are practically free from sawfly, offers some help. Deep plowing, where soil erosion or wireworm infestation is not a factor, also aids by burying sawfly larvae deep; in some areas shallow cultivation helps by keeping stubble near the surface where the worms dry out and die. In Montana, a sawfly-resistant wheat variety, Rescue, can be grown if wheat is to be seeded in or near infested fields. Community participation increases the effectiveness of all control measures.

## Common cold

THE COLD season is upon us again. What you and I call a common cold is, in the eyes of medical scientists, a cold, or one of a dozen other diseases, any one of which we may mistake for a cold. When we report the cure of a cold we may have cured something else or the "cold" may have disappeared spontaneously. Dr. Arthur L. Bloomfield reviewed all the possibilities in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for September 23, 1950. He concluded that the common cold is a specific virus infection which may be thwarted by our resistance or occasionally promoted by exposure and fatigue. The infection may come from within or without us, individually, and there are cold carriers. Practically nobody ever dies of a cold, but the sequels and coinfections may be severe enough to kill.

Sober research surveys under properly controlled conditions show that not one of the recently discovered and much heralded drugs or antibiotics has a lethal effect on the cold virus, and many of them do harm. There is no solid evidence that the true cold is influenced by antihistaminic drugs or by antibiotics, nor is there any reliable method of preventing a cold, though traumatic rhinitis, with which the common cold is often confused, may yield to these "anti-" drugs. So may secondary bacterial complications that so often accompany colds like bosom friends. Treatment remains symptomatic—rest, local applications, sedatives,

protection of others from infection, and a general safeguarding of oneself during the 5 to 7 days the disagreeable disease lasts.

## Chestnut field day

TANGIBLE RESULTS of efforts to replace blight-killed chestnuts are today visible in test plantings of the Asiatic species from Pennsylvania to Georgia and as far West as Iowa. Forty-seven scientists and others attended a recent field day at the grove planted by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, that has been growing in George Washington National Forest, Lexington, Va., since 1936. Forest Service will now maintain it as part of the Forest and use it as a source of seed. The field-day program was led by Dr. J. D. Diller of PISAE and was participated in by many specialists of both this Bureau and FS. Spencer B. Chase, horticulturist, of the Forestry Investigations Branch, TVA, came from Norris, Tenn., to attend, and the Italian Technical Delegation sent its agricultural attaché, Dr. C. B. Colonna. Many colleges, universities, and State agencies were also well represented.

Dr. Diller says that certain Asiatic chestnuts, Chinese in particular, show great promise when grown under proper forest conditions. Japanese chestnuts are more blight-susceptible than the Chinese and certain hybrids. Wild grapevines and hardwood sprouts must be controlled, as they interfere greatly with the growth of young chestnuts, while groundhogs, rabbits, sap-suckers, squirrels, and man also often prove injurious. There is already some evidence that the Chinese chestnut is naturally seeding beyond the borders of the experimental plot 2,000 feet up Long Mountain on fairly deep topsoil. The USDA has neither nuts nor chestnut trees to give to the public.

## Brief but important

### Coffee fact sheet

You may procure a fact sheet on the production and consumption of coffee, with a little history and something on processing thrown in gratis, from our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Write in or phone Ext. 5931.

### McClintock retires

J. E. McClintock, who has been agricultural editor at Ohio State since 1914, has become professor emeritus. Unassuming, pleasant, determined, but cooperative, he has long been a credit to his institution and his profession. It recently came to light also that he pioneered as early as the 1920's in the use of formulas similar to those later developed by Lorge and Flesch to promote simplified writing.



## Far East Grain Mission

This Mission has published its final report: "Market Potentialities for Wheat and Wheat Flour in the Far East." Copies may be procured from our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, room 5918S, Ext. 2445, or write in and ask for Report No. 50.

## "A Good Secretary"

We neglected to say in the October 11 issue that the specifications for the good secretary were taken from "F. D. R., My Boss," a book by Grace Tully, who also wrote on this subject in the Sunday magazine section of the New York Herald Tribune. Miss Tully's book was published by Scribner at \$3.50.

## Reed and Simms to Costa Rica

The USDA was represented by Chief O. E. Reed of the Bureau of Dairy Industry and Chief B. T. Simms of the Bureau of Animal Industry at the meeting on livestock production held October 9-20, at the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Turrialba, Costa Rica, under sponsorship of FAO.

## "What About Communism?"

This is the title of a new Pamphlet No. 164 in the series of brief, factual booklets issued by the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., a non-profit, educational organization at 22 East Thirty-eighth Street, New York City 16. Written by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., the pamphlet is factual and analytical. It costs 20 cents.

## New turf book

The first new book on turf problems in 23 years is "Turf Management," says Fred V. Grau, turf research man for the United States Golf Association, who was chairman of the board which compiled it. Published by McGraw-Hill of New York City at \$6, it is edited by Penn State agronomist H. B. Musser, and goes into the basic principles applying to all turf problems and concerning grasses of all kinds.

## Home economists!

It might sometime help you to know that the harassed manager of a New York City hotel found his guests would steal every color of towel except those dyed greenish-brown—about the color of the GI uniform. Plain white towels were next in order of unpopularity, but pink towels went like hot cakes, even in rooms occupied by men. Putting "Don't steal me" on a towel acts as a compulsive; guests who never stole towels before then take them.

## "Teamwork in World Agriculture"

This is the title of new Agriculture Information Bulletin 21. It reviews the decade of "pre-Point IV" work done by USDA, largely in Latin America, and points to this experience as helpful now with technical cooperation programs being organized on a worldwide basis. You may get copies from the Division of Foreign Agricultural Information, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA; write in, phone Ext. 2445, or drop by room 5922S.

## Do co-ops pay taxes?

What do you know about this? What do you know about co-ops? You must have heard many adverse criticisms of cooperatives made by people who were pardonably ignorant or possibly even prejudiced and hostile. The best set of answers we have seen, and the best exposition of moot points about co-ops, is an article called "Answering Tall Tales About Co-ops," by Joseph G. Knapp, associate chief, Cooperative Research and Service Division, FCA, in "News for Farmer Cooperatives" for October, an illustrated magazine published monthly by Farm Credit Administration, USDA, Washington 25, D. C., which will probably send you a copy.

## BAI needs vets

The Bureau of Animal Industry has urgent need for qualified veterinary inspectors for its Federal Meat Inspection Service, and will seek to employ 200 to 300 additional veterinarians by the end of June 1952. For more details contact the Bureau directly.

## Vermont ACP handbooks

These were printed this year with unusual attractiveness through local county support in contributing advertisements, good-quality paper and helpful illustrations being used. The handbooks are far better than previous partly illegible mimeographed jobs.

## Marketing Florida citrus

"Coordinating the Marketing of Florida Citrus Fruit," by George H. Goldsborough, is Miscellaneous Report No. 143 from Farm Credit Administration, reporting the results of a detailed Research and Marketing Act study. *Get this report from FCA direct.*

## It's Charles W. Dabney, Jr.

As Dr. Joseph S. Caldwell, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., reminds us, Charles W. Dabney, Jr., was incorrectly referred to as "George" in the front page of *USDA* for September 27. The editor made this error entirely unassisted. When he makes an error he tries to produce a whopper and then place it conspicuously.

## Cutting handling costs

A Research and Marketing Act study has shown ways in which fresh fruit and vegetable distributors can reduce handling losses by 20 to 80 percent with better methods of using hand trucks, skids, pallets, and other materials-handling equipment. For more on this get "How Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Distributors Can Get More Out of Their Materials-Handling Equipment" from Information Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, USDA.

## Light in the office

How much or how little light you need and light intensities for various tasks are still somewhat controversial subjects. For information on them, and on common lighting faults, the nature of eyestrain, the relation of age to visual performance, and results of improved lighting, write the editor of *USDA*, address bottom last column, last page, and ask for a copy of "Light and the Office Worker" by C. M. Fergusson, safety specialist of USDA's Office of Personnel.

## Better vegetable crate

A Research and Marketing Act study conducted cooperatively by the Western Growers Association and Production and Marketing Administration has shown how California and Arizona vegetable growers can substantially reduce transit and unloading damage to lettuce, carrots, and other fresh vegetables shipped to eastern markets. Adoption of a new crate is the answer. The investigations continue but, if you want a progress report, write the editor of *USDA* (see address bottom last column, last page), and ask for No. 2409.

## USDA lawyers will help you

Field attorneys of the Office of the Solicitor, USDA, are there to advise and assist employees involved in civil or criminal actions as a result of accidents or of their official activities. They will also counsel those who need protection from physical violence while performing official duties. Immediately notify the appropriate office or branch of Sol whenever you are involved in any serious accident while performing official duties, especially if serious property damage or injury to persons is involved. You will find the addresses of Sol field offices and more information on this in Pers Memorandum No. P-564, Revision 1, October 2. *Get it from Office of Personnel, USDA.*

## Cotton

The 250-page volume containing the Proceedings of the International Cotton Advisory Committee's recent Washington, D. C., meeting is available for \$2; address the Committee at South USDA Building, Washington 25, D. C. If you missed the details about the 16-million-bale cotton crop planned for next year—with no quotas and no acreage allotments, write the editor of *USDA* (address at end of last column, last page) and ask for No. 2407. If interested in cotton export allocations ask for No. 2468 or phone Ext. 4649.

## Soil tests tell the tale

Vermont's 14 counties made a soil-sampling service available to their farmers under the 1951 Agricultural Conservation Program, Production and Marketing Administration and Extension Service cooperating, and the Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station analyzing the samples at 35 cents each. County agents made individual farm recommendations. While the tests serve only as a guide, this was felt to be a worth-while project because Vermont farmers are using only 25 percent of the annual fertilizer tonnage recommended by State agronomists.

## Weeds are all right

That's what Prof. Joseph A. Cocannouer of the University of Oklahoma says in his new book, "Weeds, Guardians of the Soil." Chosen by the Farmer's Book Club as its second September selection, this is probably the first book ever written in praise of weeds and the good work they do. They break up and enrich the soil, condition it, and are good indicators of its condition, make fine companion crops, and are even edible. But read the book—\$2.75 a copy from the publisher, Devin-Adair, 23 East Twenty-sixth Street, New York City 10.

## Crimson clover in the South

Improved varieties available only since 1944 accounted for nearly half the crimson clover seed produced in the South the past spring. These are reseeding or volunteering Dixie, Auburn, and Autauga, and they came from research begun by USDA scientists in 1936. First many lots of crimson clover seed were collected from farms where the crop has been grown from seed produced thereon for a decade. Later, in cooperation with several southern agricultural experiment stations, these seed lots were tested for ability to reseed or volunteer in the fall from seed scattered the previous spring.

## Burch comes through

That book Dallas S. Burch, Bureau of Animal Industry retiree, was editing, is out. It is Farmer's Book Club selection for September. It is "A Veterinary Guide for Farmers," by G. W. Stamm, a complete and long-needed manual of what to do until the veterinarian arrives. It discusses common livestock ailments in simple nontechnical language, has 150 illustrations, and, if it saves the life of but one animal, is well worth the \$3.50 Devin-Adair, 23 East Twenty-sixth Street, New York City 10, charge for it. And, of course, we think even more highly of it since Dallas edited it!

## Pots and pans

New Home and Garden Bulletin No. 2 is "Pots and Pans for Your Kitchen," and a very practical and highly useful publication it is. Pot by pot and pan by pan it takes up materials, shape, and utilization of all common kitchen utensils, then lists minimum sets of kitchen utensils, pans for range-top and oven use, and tools for food preparation and dishwashing. It was prepared by Elizabeth Beveridge of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and should be a friend in need to innumerable brides as well as to thrifty, intelligent housewives everywhere.



## Growth of farmer co-ops

If interested in recent growth in farmers' marketing and purchasing co-ops, State by State, and nationally, write the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 2386 or phone E.t. 4649.

## Reinhold Niebuhr wrote it!

Remember the quotation on page 3, issue of September 27, of which we ask the author? Several PMA employees answered correctly almost at once. Thanks.

## Thought on research

The duPont corporation, which is definitely in business for profit, expends 35 million dollars annually on research and the president of the company regards it as a good return if 1 research project out of 20 pays off. Read more about this in the study of the corporation in *Fortune* for October.

## The new hog-cholera virus

This year, as was the case last year too, some losses of recently vaccinated hogs from cholera were caused by the variant of the hog-cholera virus first recognized in 1949. If you want to know more about this variant and the complications produced by its existence write the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, this page, and ask for No. 2391.

## "Searching the literature"

This is a very common expression to designate an almost daily task research workers have to perform. If you'd like to know about one effort to simplify this job look up the symposium on "New Techniques in Chemical Literature," in *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry* for August 1950. Brief papers discuss conventional and mechanized search methods, a punched-card code for organic chemists, microfilm-selection equipment in information work, high-speed electronic computing devices, microcards as a new form of publication and microcards and microfilm for central reference file use, as well as related library problems.

## Fire fighters meet

The Office of Operations, Agricultural Research Center, held a 2-day training school, September 19-20, for their volunteer field and forest-fire fighting crews. The school was conducted by G. P. Kramer, I. H. Sims, and E. M. Olliver, of the Forest Service Regional Office at Philadelphia, Pa. They were assisted by H. C. Buckingham, Maryland State Forester, and Pickall, Schlosser, Jackson, Arnold, and Constant from the district office of the State forestry office at Laurel, Md. Instruction was given to approximately 35 employees at Agricultural Research Center. Rain prevented any practice in fighting actual fires, but valuable training was received in crew organization, the handling of tools and equipment, and the building of fire lanes.

## Fulton retires

Harry R. Fulton, plant scientist whose research on the cause and control of diseases of citrus and other subtropical fruits has been of major importance, has retired after 35 years of service. A native of Mississippi and a graduate of the University of that State, with advanced degrees from Harvard and the University of Missouri, Mr. Fulton was a staff member of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, Penn State, and North Carolina State, before entering old Bureau of Plant Industry, in November 1915. During the past decade he has served as a special assistant in charge of reports and other manuscripts in the Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering.

## Rand in OPEDA

Dr. Frederick V. Rand has become executive officer of the Organization of Professional Employees of the USDA, succeeding Dr. M. C. Merrill who served for the summer months only. A USDA employee since 1908, who retired in June 1949, Dr. Rand has an impressive scientific and professional background including long membership in many leading professional and scientific organizations.

## Director Weaver

Assistant Director David S. Weaver, an agricultural engineer, has succeeded Dr. I. O. Schaub, retired, as director of extension for North Carolina. A graduate of Ohio State, who took postgraduate work at University of North Carolina, Director Weaver has long been a leader in North Carolina's rural electrification program. He has been in charge of extension engineering work from 1936 until he became assistant extension director in January 1948.

## Dean Price

Prof. F. E. Price, an agricultural engineer who graduated from Oregon State College, was professor of agricultural engineering and engaged in research there from 1928 until 1946, and has been assistant director of the experiment station more recently, became dean of agriculture at his alma mater, and director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, and acting director of extension, October 1. He succeeded Dean and Director William A. Schoenfeld, retired.

## New publications

Circular No. 851, from Bureau of Dairy Industry, is entitled "General Procedure for Manufacturing Swiss Cheese;" it is by George P. Sanders; Lloyd A. Burkey, and Harry R. Lochry. \* \* \* Agriculture Handbook No. 2, prepared by Elsie H. Dawson, Gladys L. Gilpin, and Howard Reynolds of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, gives "Procedure for Home Freezing of Vegetables, Fruits, and Prepared Foods—Classified Notes on Review of the Literature."

## Policing plants

"Policing International Plant Traffic," by Ralph W. Sherman, plant quarantine specialist in EPQ, which appeared in "The Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World" for September 23, 1950, is an informative and well-written story. No professional writer or information specialist could improve upon Sherman's presentation of technical work in his own field, in which he lightens the narrative with accounts of quirks and oddities dealing with policing plants the world over. We strongly suggest you read the article if you can get hold of it.

## "Pop" Pendleton

Dr. Robert ("Pop") Pendleton, agronomist in Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations and professor of tropical soils and agriculture at Johns Hopkins University, has been awarded the American Geographical Society's David Livingstone Centenary Medal in recognition of his outstanding work "as one of the world's leading experts in soil survey and classification and, particularly, on the nature and use of tropical soils." The venerable 100-year-old society of geographers had to award the gold medal in absentia since the globe-trotting Dr. Pendleton is at present representing FAR in Thailand on a Point 4 advisory mission, aimed principally at helping the farmers grow more rice. Dr. Pendleton, in addition to his work with USDA and Johns Hopkins, has had a number of years of service as soil technologist and agriculturist with the governments of India, China, Siam, and the Philippines.

## Director Chandler named president

Robert F. Chandler, Jr., director of the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station, has been named president of the University of New Hampshire to succeed Dr. Arthur S. Adams, who becomes president of the American Council on Education. Chandler did his academic work at the University of Maine and the University of Maryland.

## Research policy committee meets

The Agricultural Research Policy Committee held its quarterly meeting in Washington, September 28-29, and reviewed the USDA research program with Secretary Brannan in the light of current world conditions. It discussed particularly adjustments that might be required by the international situation. The Committee met also with Under Secretary McCormick, Assistant Secretary Hutchinson, Research Administrator P. V. Cardon, O. V. Wells, Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and other USDA officials.

## Bulletin on a forest cooperative

"Ostego Forest Products Association of Cooperstown, New York," has been published as Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 17, available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25 D. C., for 20 cents. Prepared by James G. Rettle and Frank S. Ineson of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, Upper Darby, Pa., it should offer guidance to farmers in other localities who wish to establish a cooperative association to harvest, process, and market their forest products. The Ostego Association was founded in 1935, owns its own sawmill, and produces 2 to 2½ million board feet of lumber annually.

## LEAVE RIDER

The Comptroller General gave his clarifying decision on this rider September 29. All annual (not sick) leave earned by you during 1950 must be used by June 30, 1951, or forfeited. Employees who carried over maximum leave on January 1, 1950, must use all their 1950 leave by December 31, 1950. The effect of the rider on leave earned in 1950 is permanent. If you carried over more than 34 but less than 60 days January 1, 1950, you can carry over into 1951 only enough of your 1950 leave to make your total carry-over 60 days; the remainder must be used by December 31, 1950, and the portion of 1950 earned leave by June 30, 1951. If your leave carry-over into 1950 was 34 days or less, you could carry your entire 1950 earned leave on into 1950, but you'd have to use it up by June 30, 1951. For more details write the editor of *USDA* and ask for the advance sheet on the leave rider.

## November 8, 1950 Vol. IX, No. 23

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR NOVEMBER 22, 1950

## Information

ONE OF THE most common misunderstandings about the functioning of Government seems to be the belief that "bureaucrats," without Congressional authorization, can decide what activities to undertake. This misunderstanding is especially widespread with respect to Government information work, yet one-half the duty of the USDA, as defined in the organic act of May 15, 1862, which founded it, is to disseminate information on agriculture. Our information work does not exist to serve any particular group of officials nor any political viewpoint. It exists to serve the public. It operates in accordance with the views of their representatives in Congress.

As Keith Himebaugh, USDA Director of information, recently pointed out in a talk to the agricultural advisory committee of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, Congress annually considers and approves each budget project of the Office of Information, a separate staff agency of USDA. Thus it, in effect, approves the methods by which the Department reports to the public via press statements, radio and television programs, bulletins and leaflets, motion pictures, and exhibits. Congress itself participates in this effort to provide information and report on the work of the USDA by distributing about 80 percent of the Farmers' Bulletins. The Yearbook of Agriculture, prepared in USDA, is a Congressional document.

The staff Office of Information coordinates and supervises the informational activities of the various USDA agencies, each of which has a small specialized informational force of its own. These offices are staffed by especially trained personnel, truly professional employees. Besides the Office of the Director, the staff Office of Information consists of Exhibits Service, Motion Picture Service, Press Service, Division of Publications, and Radio and Television Service. While *USDA* is issued from this Office also, it is financed by USDA's agencies which pay your subscription on it.

### International Wheat Agreement

If your interest lies in this direction, get the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, USDA, to send you its Foreign Agricultural Circular for October 4, (FG 15-50).

### DOCUMENT NO. 1 SLIGHTLY REVISED

*USDA* Document No. 1, Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, underwent a slight revision and reappeared under date of October 1 with a few changes incident to delegations of authority under the Defense Production Act.

## The Government employee

EVERY Government employee has certain moral and intellectual responsibilities—toward the Government and toward the people. Unless we can select applicants with good moral training, we will not have employees who will understand and discharge these responsibilities. Some of the Government employee's responsibilities are: 1. To be loyal to his country, not merely in the negative sense of not being disloyal, but in the larger sense of devotion, fidelity, and enthusiasm in working for the common good. 2. To exercise good judgment in decisions and actions affecting the Government's work. 3. To be fair and impartial in his dealings with people. 4. To be trustworthy with respect to Government information and activities. 5. To conduct his personal life in such a way that it will not bring discredit upon the public service.

The Government's responsibilities to its employees include not only reasonable wages, hours, and working conditions, but recognition of their rights as individuals, such as: 1. No consideration given to employees' religion or race—or to their politics, provided they are loyal to the United States. 2. No unnecessary inquiry into their private affairs and no regulation of their private lives—in other words, the right to be let alone.

The public owes to Government employees: 1. The right to be treated and thought of as human beings. 2. The understanding that Government employees represent a cross section of the American people, working with other Americans toward the common goal of a better America. (Frances Perkins, U. S. Civil Service Commission, in a talk at Chicago, October 19, 1950.)

### Texas A. & M. is 75

Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College observed its seventy-fifth anniversary early in October with impressive ceremonies.

## Those UN flags

NO DOUBT YOU also heard Extension Service attacked because it sponsored the making of those United Nations flags. It was accused of doing something illegal, even of trying to replace the Stars and Stripes with the UN flag! Actually it was doing something wholly legal and very helpful, and its vindication has been complete, while 38,000 home-made UN flags flew beside (not instead of) our flag on United Nations Day (October 24) in every State and nearly every county. These flags, not previously known widely, and available in only limited numbers, were made by women and girls in farm, home-demonstration, 4-H, veteran, church, school, civic, labor, and other organizations. They were flown as a citizens' movement pressing the world peace objective of the UN, and our boys fought under the UN banner in Korea.

This project was sponsored by the National Citizens Committee for UN Day, composed of 78 national organizations. It originated with the four major farm organizations, all of which wholeheartedly backed it. At the request of the farm organizations and the citizens' committee, the Extension Service played a leading role in the program. County home demonstration agents made their offices available as information centers and demonstrated how to make the flags. The National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work in Chicago made a pattern kit available at 50 cents. The project had the most highly respectable sponsorship and an inspiring public service job was quickly and well done.

### The flag

Meticulous readers of *USDA* tell us that their investigations prove it is not illegal to fly the U. S. flag by night. In any case, they can easily understand why the beleaguered defenders of Ft. McHenry didn't lower the flag on the night Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner.



## Crop insurance

THE NEED for insurance on growing crops against loss from production risks beyond the farmer's control is recognized world-wide. Hardly a week passes that the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation does not explain its operations to one or more foreign visitors and point up what it has learned from experience. In one recent week FCIC representatives discussed crop insurance in detail with representatives from Germany, Pakistan, Japan, and Korea. Other countries from which it has had visitors and correspondence include: Cuba, India, Argentina, Australia, British West Indies, Chile, Sweden, England, Canada, Indonesia, Brazil, China, Turkey, Spain, Peru, Holland, South Africa, Uruguay, Ecuador, Switzerland, Italy, Costa Rica, France, New Zealand, Northern Ryukyus, Egypt, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Canada has been trying crop insurance in some provinces since 1940. Japan has had it on a compulsory basis since 1939, but it there involves relief rather than operation on strict business principles as here. Japan's experience is more extensive than ours and even includes insurance of work stock against death or "disuse." Puerto Rico has insurance that protects coffee farmers against loss from hurricanes and windstorms. Government crop insurance has been in operation in numerous other countries, usually against hail damage, with other risks covered occasionally. In some cases governments contribute part of the premium cost; in others government provides insurance for local associations; in others still the program is government-operated.

The favorable experience of our FCIC in recent years has stimulated interest and emulation in other countries, for its operations now provide a sound actuarial basis for such protection. Visitors point out that the need for crop insurance has long been recognized elsewhere, but the possible costs of such programs have acted as a restraint. Now our experience, human as well as financial, offers some firm statistical foundations upon which to build. The need of most other countries for such insurance is far more acute than ours. This complicates the problem, since it seems to make adequate premiums to cover indemnities paid difficult to obtain. However, our crop insurance program remains a stimulant and an inspiration to the entire world.

### Potatoes for 1951

If interested in USDA's suggested 1951 potato production and acreage, State by State, write the editor of *USDA* for No. 2532.

## Lake Lasseter christened!

DILLARD B. LASSETER, Farmers Home Administrator, was recently honored by Georgia Negro leaders as a "distinguished Georgian and outstanding public servant." During a ceremony held near Fort Valley, Ga., on October 21, a lake at Camp John Hope was named for, and dedicated to the Administrator. A marker was unveiled, bearing a special inscription in recognition of Mr. Lasseter's service, particularly to Negro youth of the State.

Also attending the event from Washington was William H. Shell, Negro administrative officer of FHA, who made a brief talk. Taking part in the dedication ceremonies were main speaker, Dr. M. D. Mobley, director of vocational education, State Department of Education, at Atlanta; T. G. Walters, State supervisor of agricultural education at Atlanta; and C. V. Troup, president of Fort Valley State College.

## Plant criminals

MOST FOREIGN restrictions on the entry of plants from the United States are biologically sound and clearly stated. Yet there are quite a few bizarre conditions that must be met if you want to ship plants abroad. Some of these unusual requirements are highlighted by Ralph W. Sherman of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. He describes the little-publicized activities of the Export Certification Section of the Bureau's Division of Foreign Plant Quarantines, which expedites the movement of our plants to foreign destinations by performing the inspections and treatments necessary to conform to plant sanitation requirements of the receiving country.

On the odd side, for example, Burma prohibits the entry of Mexican jumping beans. As Sherman comments: "Whether the cozy bean moth larvae jitterbugging in these seedpods are too active for the slow-rythmed Burmese or whether the natives lose too heavily in the games of chance that feature these acrobatic oddities isn't clear. But you can't send them." In still another tenor, plant import regulations of the U. S. S. R. brusquely outline their right to "embargo, return or destroy; decide its status regardless of statement in a foreign certificate." Chinese regulations are the simplest, while Mozambique, on the southeastern coast of Africa has an elaborate set of requirements. Some fancy "gobbledegook"

appearing in a South American plant order could be quoted to show that we have no monopoly on this accomplishment.

Peru still prohibits the importation of Florida fruits and vegetables to keep out the Mediterranean fruitfly, while the U. S. S. R. embargoes citrus plantings from Louisiana because of citrus canker. The catch is that the 1929-30 campaign in Florida wiped out the Mediterranean fruitfly infestation there, and an intensive campaign, from 1914 to 1927, licked the citrus canker in the Gulf Region. Judging from potato embargoes, America's insect most feared abroad is our Colorado potato beetle. Other existing foreign embargoes are such that it is now illegal to ship hosts of the Japanese beetle or European corn borer back to their ancestral homes!

## USDA and the press

OUR DEPARTMENT apparently rates well with the press in Washington, D. C., as a source of accurate, unbiased information. Not long since E. R. McIntyre of the USDA Press Service, who has fished and cut bait on both sides of the stream of information, as editor and writer for farm journals, and as employee of USDA, took part in a panel discussion on what Washington news and radio writers think of Government information agencies. This was at a Sigma Delta Chi meeting. Mac brought out that we follow an open-door information policy, invariably giving assistance to press, magazine, and radio people whether they are for or against us. No writer or reporter is ever brushed off with the stiff arm. Even if they want derogatory material to blast our program, we assist them in getting it.

USDA does get blasted, too. You have seen evidence of that recently in *Fortune*, *Collier's*, *McCall's*, and elsewhere. But the facts were made available to the writers and editors involved, however much they were twisted. The responsibility thus rests with the latter. However, our relations with press, magazine, and radio people are generally good. It is the exception when we are treated unfairly. We try also faithfully to service local papers, trade papers, farm papers, and radio farm directors. A while back a candidate for a doctor's degree at American University sent out 1,100 questionnaires to as many Washington newsmen and writers. When asked quite objectively which Government agency gave them the best service, there was a clear majority for the Department of Agriculture with Defense next.



# Brief but important

## Byrnes succeeds McClintock

Francis C. Byrnes, who has been assistant extension editor at Ohio State for 2 years, has succeeded J. E. McClintock, retired, there as editor.

## The REA telephone program

"A Year of the REA Telephone Program," a talk delivered by Rural Electrification Administrator Wickard in Chicago, October 11, offers a very good review of this subject. If you want copies write the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 2436.

## World wool situation

For an appraisal in brief of the world wool situation as presented before the International Wool Study Group in London, in October, write the editor of *USDA* (address bottom last column, last page) and ask for No. 2479.

## Life and time and research

Said William James: "The great use of a life is to spend it for something that outlasts it!" And an ironical justification for social science research goes: "It is never a waste of your time to find out how other people waste theirs." Finally, Sir Thomas Browne wrote: "No one should approach the temple of science with the soul of a money-changer."

## New rust-resistant wheats

Lee, a hard red spring wheat adapted to Minnesota and adjacent States, and Quanah, a hard red winter wheat for Texas, have been released by the USDA and cooperating State agricultural experiment stations. The new varieties carry unusual resistance to common races of rust. If you want more detailed descriptions of them write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2489.

## "The U. S. and Agriculture"

This is the title of an address delivered by Under Secretary McCormick before the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, October 16 last. It provides a very good appraisal and evaluation of American agriculture today, as compared with only a few years ago, and of the status of our broad public agricultural programs. To get copies write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2471.

## Profit in pastures

Today's pasture research is establishing new rules for success. Many recent experiments have demonstrated that improved pastures produce as much livestock feed per acre on comparable land as high-yielding corn crops, and considerably more than other grain feed crops. For more details as given by Dr. W. M. Myers, who heads forage investigations for the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2514.

## She pays her board

A dairy cow that doesn't pay her board is in imminent danger of the slaughterhouse. Even if she produces 200 pounds of butterfat a year she seldom makes a profit for her owner, regardless of production costs and milk prices. Cows that averaged 200 pounds of butterfat in dairy-herd-association improvement herds in 1949 consumed \$131 worth of feed, returned \$121 over feed cost, and thus failed to make their keep. For more details on this write the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, last page and ask for No. 2522.

## Outlook charts

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics issued the Agricultural Outlook Charts recently in a publication dated October 1950.

## Plant-disease index

Publication has begun of the revised index of U. S. plant diseases which has been in preparation several years. Send individual requests for the first part to Plant Disease Survey, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

## Oklahoma grain storage

New Bulletin 58 from FCA is "Where and How Much Cash Grain Storage for Oklahoma Farmers," by Thomas E. Hall, Adlowe L. Larson, Howard S. Whitney, and Charles H. Meyer—the two in the middle being faculty members of Oklahoma A. & M. College, the other two on the staff of Farm Credit Administration, from which you may get the bulletin.

## Power to Secretary of Interior

Secretary Brannan has delegated to the Secretary of the Interior certain priority, claimant, requisitioning, and other functions and authorities relating to fish production. This was done under the Defense Production Act and Executive Order No. 10161, which delegated basic responsibilities for food to the USDA.

## Guayule rubber

Our research workers have made considerable gains since the war in producing high-yielding strains of the rubber plant, guayule, from which the Indians made bouncing balls centuries ago. If you would like a report on the slow but significant progress being made toward producing natural rubber from this plant, within the United States, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2500.

## Mission to Uruguay

Associate Chief F. F. Elliott of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Superintendent David A. Savage of the Southern Great Plains Field Station, Woodward, Okla., Olaf G. Aamodt, forage specialist, and Leonard G. Schenleber, agricultural engineer, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, are among the members of the agricultural mission making a technical study of Uruguayan agriculture for the International Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

## Efficiency ratings are out!

Efficiency ratings are out. Performance ratings based on performance standards are on their way in. The purpose of the standards and ratings is to achieve the best possible working relationships between supervisors and employees. A performance standard will be made for each USDA employee, based on the duties of his job. The items in this standard will be discussed by the supervisor and the employee, resulting in a better understanding of the job requirements by both. Periodically a rating will be made based on these standards.

## Lost in the woods?

Well, what would you do, walk about aimlessly or sit down and howl like a hyena? Don't do either. If you yell, do so only at spaced intervals, giving the internationally accepted distress signal of three shouts (did you know that?). Don't worry, don't quit, and, if you sit down, do so quietly to ponder a way out. If you want more details on safety rules for hunters and hikers as given by Forest Service write the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, last page and ask for No. 2551.

## Hog-cholera-serum marketing

If interested in changes recommended in the Marketing Agreement and Order regulating the handling of anti-hog-cholera serum, write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2518.

## Mastitis control by penicillin

If interested, write the editor of *USDA* for copies of a processed publication by W. W. Swett, and associates, Bureau of Dairy Industry, entitled "Control of Mastitis in the Bureau of Dairy Industry Herd by Treating the Infected Quarters with Penicillin."

## Forests and the Bible

"Forest and Flame in the Bible" is a new and beautifully illustrated publication from Forest Service. It is an adaptation by George Vitas of FS's earlier publication "Forests and Forest Devastation in the Bible," and "Trees and the Bible," published by the Texas Forest Service. It consists essentially of appropriate Bible texts.

## Not so balmy

A friend in Philadelphia complains because the "balmy" Forest Service wastes money putting up signs about fighting forest fires in city streetcars; he says there are no forests in the city! But he seems to forget that city people ride out to the forests to picnic, hunt, fish, or take vacations, and that their children need to be told about protecting forests from fire quite as much as do any other children. Car-card warnings about forest fires are not balmy, even in big cities.

## Toastmasters

The Potomac Toastmasters Club of Washington, D. C., an affiliate of Toastmasters International, has quite a number from PMA, BAE, and FHA among its members. Its recently elected officers, however, are all from the last. They are Broadway G. Frazier, president; Gardner Walker, vice president; Robert Schottler, secretary-treasurer; and Floyd Lynn, sergeant-at-arms. Meetings consist of a dinner, six 5-minute talks, constructive speech evaluations, and table topic discussion. Membership in such organizations should aid those of us who have to speak often and want to do a better job of it.

## Forest Service can help Korea

When war-torn Korea is rehabilitated FS can supply considerable information on forestry techniques that can profitably be applied. In Maxwell E. Becker, FS Experiment Station at Columbus, Ohio, they have a man who was born in Korea of American missionary parents and knows its customs, language, and forestry conditions well. The following also served in Korea as advisers to its Bureau of Forestry until June 1950: Stanley Wilson, Gilbert Varney, Philip Heaton, William H. Croke, Dayton P. Kirkham, Hyman M. Goldberg, Leonard H. More, and Eugene Reichard, all of whom, except Reichard and Kirkham, have returned to work with FS.

## Warfarin

This is the name of the new mouse and rat poison discovered in the laboratories of Dr. Karl Paul Link, University of Wisconsin, and developed by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. It has been released for sale after an intensive experimental program carried out by Fish and Wildlife Service, the Public Health Service, the National Pest Control Association, and others. Warfarin is tasteless, odorless, and insidious in small quantities consumed over a period of days. Poisoned rats show no immediate effects but eventually become drowsy, walk with a measured gait, and finally die painlessly of internal hemorrhage. No bait shyness is developed and the substance can wipe out mouse and rat populations where other poisons have failed.



## Tuskegee dedicates

On October 14 exercises were held to dedicate the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee Institute. The school was established in 1945 but its new building has just been completed.

## Mississippi State is 70

Mississippi State College commemorated its seventieth anniversary on October 24, Founder's Day, and dedicated seven new buildings. President John A. Hannah of Michigan State was principal speaker.

## New publications

Two new publications are Circular No. 852, "Electricity on Farms in the Eastern Livestock Area of Iowa," by Joe F. Davis and Paul E. Strickler, prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, and "Migratory Farm Workers in 1949," Agricultural Information Bulletin 25, by Louis J. Ducoff, BAE.

## Blackhawk

This is a new high-yielding, high-oil-content soybean released after 4-year tests by our Regional Soybean Laboratory and 7 co-operating State agricultural experiment stations. Write the experiment stations in Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, or South Dakota for information on seed supplies.

## Health council liaison

Public Law 692, Eighty-first Congress, Second Session, provided for the establishment of a National Advisory Health Council. At the suggestion of the Surgeon General that we name a liaison officer to this council, Dr. C. K. Mingle, Tuberculosis Eradication Division, Bureau of Animal Industry, was so designated.

## Popular USDA movies

Again in the 1949-50 year The River led, 134 prints of this ever-popular picture having been purchased by film users outside USDA. Next in order came: Realm of the Wild, A Heritage We Guard, In the Beginning, Most Dangerous Combination, Soil and Water Conservation, Water, Life of Plants, and Topsoil. Newest at this time is Stem Rust—Air-borne Enemy of Grain, a color film.

## They ask to know

Told to ask questions about the farm, the first-grade pupils of a Washington, D. C., school teacher came up last week with these penetrating queries: How are cows milked? How do chickens make eggs? How do ducks swim? How does the chick get out of the shell? How early does the farmer get up? How do pigs lay bacon? Got any answers handy, you?

## Religious department

Bright and diligent Bible readers assure us that Dr. Jesness' verse on uttering words easily understood so as not to speak into the air is from I Corinthians 14:9, and not 13:9, as was said in the October 11 issue. It seems the verse at 13:9 is, "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part," obviously the motto of the Weather Bureau or the Crop Reporting Board—or maybe ours, too!

## NOT so big!!

That poison-oak bush mentioned in the October 11 issue of *USDA* swelled unaccountably from 6.4 inches to 6.4 feet, diameter breast-high, in process of getting into print. C. M. Walker writes from the California Forest and Range Experiment Station he is now afraid the bush will get swell-headed, too, so make him honest as well as proud by believing it is inches, not feet. The only way we can get field items now is to make an error.

## James Thorp

James Thorp, principal soil correlator of the Great Plains States, Division of Soil Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Lincoln, Nebr., attended the meetings of the Fourth International Congress of Soil Science in Amsterdam, July 24 to August 2, at which he became chairman of section 5, dealing with the morphology, genesis, and classification of soils. The next congress will be held in the Belgian Congo in 1954.

## Wonderful hosts in Brazil

Margaret Goldsmith, bacteriologist in the textile laboratories of Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, has returned from her trip to Brazil as an official delegate of the Society of American Bacteriologists to the Rio de Janeiro meeting of the International Congress for Microbiology, where she gave a talk. Here 600 scientists gathered from 37 countries and Miss Goldsmith reports that the Brazilians are wonderful hosts who know just how to balance science and entertainment properly.

## Cabbage head

Considered in terms of food value cabbage easily offers the most nutrition for the least money. It rates close to citrus fruit and tomatoes in vitamin C and, cooked or raw, offers some thiamine, niacin, and riboflavin, calcium, and iron. Look for heads that are firm and heavy for their size, with closely trimmed stems, and all except three or four of the outer wrapper leaves removed. Cabbage should be green and fresh-looking with no yellow or otherwise discolored leaves, which indicate injury or senility.

## After hours and overtime

Doesn't 8 hours give you plenty of time to do your day's work. Some creative (or temperamental) people claim they can work only very early in the morning, or about 3 in the afternoon, or at midnight. There is evidence that various people do reach peak efficiency at different times of the day, yet special hours are not really the essential many think they are. But what about rush jobs and emergencies? If carefully analyzed, most of them turn out to be the fruit of loose management and fuzzy thinking. Once fixed hours are set and kept, emergencies and rush jobs decline. In general the 8-hour day is good from the standpoint of human engineering. It makes for smoother work, normal home life, regular meal times, and properly spaced social and recreational interests. All that is required is a bit of forethought and some control of pseudotemperament.

## Fat thin man

The American Medical Association has been looking into nutrition and its investigators find, among other things, that you may be slim, yet fat. Layers of fat beneath the skin may not be a true index of bodily fatness, for fat is also distributed through the organs and tissues, and many a lean person of subnormal weight may, in this sense, be fat. The well-formed athlete may also be undesirably lean and in need of more food to become properly plump. The body appears to be a thrifty organism, say these investigators, and takes a "cut" for its own use of the food provided for energy. You cannot stuff yourself with food and work it all off; some is bound to stick to your bones. The body is not a passive machine like a furnace into which you shovel food-fuel and get energy-heat as a product. It has its own nutritional budgetary system and decides for itself how much of the food intake it will pay out in work. Undoubtedly the American Medical Association can give you more details on its studies if you write it in Chicago.

## John Stewart

John Lammey Stewart died in Paris, October 11, aged 53, where he served as agricultural attaché. A native of Philadelphia, a graduate of Penn State with an M. S. from Lehigh, he began his USDA career in 1924, serving first with Bureau of Agricultural Economics then with Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, until 1945, when he became agricultural attaché in Denmark. Highly competent, widely known, and well liked, he was an outstanding career man.

## Mesquite eradicator

Mesquite contributes heavily to the gigantic problem of brush control on several million acres in the Southwest. Now USDA plant scientists working with those of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station have found encouraging evidence that aerial sprays of a new chemical, 2,4,5-T, kill it in north Texas. For more details on this write the editor of *USDA*, name and address in last column, back page, and ask for No. 2535.

## Internship program

Opportunities for outstanding graduate students to obtain 1951-52 USDA internships in professional, scientific, and analytical positions will be announced in the next few weeks. Now in its third year, the internship program has already made it possible for nine students to spend up to 12 months in USDA positions doing work that can be used to meet requirements for a Ph. D. If interested in behalf of any bright young men or women you know, check with Parke G. Haynes, Office of Personnel, for information.

## From AIC

The Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry and the Army Quartermaster Corps are undertaking world-wide tests of antimildew treatments for cotton; for more details on this write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2563. This Bureau has also shown in limited tests that fertilizer bags made of vat-dyed or printed cotton fabrics have approximately the same reuse value as similar bags now widely used for storing and shipping flour and feed; if interested in details write in for No. 2573.

## Eve was a piker

To be sure Eve gave Adam the apple, but Dr. William E. Whitehouse, USDA plant scientist, predicts far better apples in the future, for the best qualities of this fruit from all over the world are now being used to make new varieties for the U. S. Possibilities are that present-day varieties may be improved by greatly increasing their vitamin C content, adding the spicelike flavor of the better English varieties, or imparting the smooth after-cooking flesh texture of certain German and New Zealand apples. Breeding material incorporating qualities for improvement has recently been distributed to apple breeders from 1,500 varieties under study in test plantings at the U. S. Plant Introduction Garden, Glenn Dale, Md.

## November 22, 1950 Vol. IX, No. 24

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR DECEMBER 6, 1950

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## Cash Awards

THE FOLLOWING individuals have received cash awards for adopted suggestions during the period of July 1 through September 29. (Detailed information concerning the suggestions may be secured from the Bureau Efficiency Award Committee):

**Bureau of Animal Industry**—JOHN A. CARLSEN, Omaha, Neb., \$25; JOHN L. COTTING, Washington, D. C., \$40; VIRGIL LEE, South St. Paul, Minn., \$30; LUCILLE R. PAYNE, Washington, D. C., \$25; FRANK A. SPURR, Washington, D. C., \$100.

**Farm Credit Administration**—ROSE V. FLEMING, Washington, D. C., \$100.

**Farmers Home Administration**—EARL C. BASSETT, Montgomery, Ala., and MARY E. SKIDMORE, Dallas, Tex., joint award \$80; O. E. BERGSTROM, Dallas, Tex., \$50; GLENDOA CRANE, Oklahoma City, Okla., \$10; ALLEN B. DORRIS, Montgomery, Ala., \$10; WILBURN L. DURHAM, Jackson, Miss., \$10; JOEL O. EWING, Columbia, Mo., \$10; GEORGE I. LANE, Eastland, Tex., \$75; ARTHUR J. LECLAIRE, Wautoma, Wis., \$190; Margaret C. Meredith, Indianapolis, Ind., \$35; JOSEPH L. MORRIS, Morgantown, W. Va., \$10; D. E. PORTWOOD, Montgomery, Ala., \$20; ROBERT H. RALSTON, Springfield, Tenn., \$25; ARLEN M. SCOTT, Honolulu, T. H., \$10; AUDREY G. WILKINSON, Washington, D. C., \$15.

**Federal Crop Insurance Corporation**—BETTY A. FINN, Des Moines, Iowa, \$10.

**Forest Service**—BURTON D. ANDERSON and EARL A. JARBOE, Albuquerque, N. Mex., joint award \$100; WALTER H. BOEDER, Milwaukee, Wis., \$10; LUTHER B. BURKETT, Rhinelander, Wis., \$25; WILLIAM O. DIERX, San Francisco, Calif., \$10; R. A. GASPAR and THOMAS SHIPLEY (Angeles National Forest), Los Angeles, Calif., joint award \$25; MILLS E. GAY, Atlanta, Ga., \$25; ELMER J. KESSLER, Quincy, Calif., \$100; DORIS E. LAMPHERE, Cadillac, Mich., \$10; CAROL D. MACKEY (Chippewa National Forest), Cass Lake, Minn., \$25; ANNE C. McNULTY, Bedford, Ind., \$10; RUBY L. PARR, Atlanta, Ga., \$25; CLAIRE M. SCANLAN, Philadelphia, Pa., \$50; R. M. SWEET, Gunnison, Colo., \$25; J. A. TAYLOR, Rutland, Vt., \$25.

**Library**—YVONNE J. HILL, Washington, D. C., \$10.

**Office of Personnel**—MARGARET E. SULLIVAN, Washington, D. C., \$50.

**Production and Marketing Administration**—PAUL C. ADAMS, San Francisco, Calif., \$25; BEULAH G. CARDAN, Washington, D. C., \$10; RALPH F. DESIMONE, Washington, D. C., \$10; FRANK E. DOHERTY, Minneapolis, Minn., \$20; HOWARD E. FLANIGAN, Mobile, Ala., \$10; DOROTHY V. GILLIKIN, Washington, D. C., \$10; LILY M. GYLDENVAND, Minneapolis, Minn., \$10; ADELE B. KEATING, San Francisco, Calif., \$10; EMBY F. KISSANE, Chicago, Ill., \$10; NATHANIEL E. KOENIG, Mamaroneck, N. Y., \$10; RICHARD M. KRONE, New Orleans, La., \$95; FRED C. NIEDERLOH, Minneapolis, Minn., \$130; JAMES F. PARKER, Washington, D. C., \$25; MARIAN V. POWERS, Washington, D. C., \$10; GERYL E. ROOF, Washington, D. C., \$10; C. TABER STEPHENS, Washington, D. C., \$200; GEORGE A. THIEL, Chicago, Ill., \$10; HARRITTE T. THOMPSON, Washington, D. C., \$10; RUBY J. WILLIS, Washington, D. C., \$75; BILLIE J. WOLFF, San Francisco, Calif., \$15; CHARLES W. WOOD, Portland, Oreg., \$50; JOSEPH ZUESSMAN, Washington, D. C., \$65.

## Canadian beef

If you are interested in the prospect that Canadian cattle and beef will probably move into the United States during the next couple of years at a lower rate than during the past two, and other relevant facts, write the editor of *USDA*, and request No. 2585.

## Supervisor's problems

SOME FUNDAMENTALS we want from life, particularly our office lives, are recognition, respect, security, and fair play. It is the job of supervisors to provide these fundamentals for the people who work under them. Employees follow procedures more consistently when authority is properly delegated; they work more accurately and efficiently if their instructions are clear; they will volunteer for overtime or for unpleasant assignments more readily when they know they will be given fair treatment; they will produce more work if assured of recognition. The rules of good human relations are as old as the hills, but the U. S. Civil Service Commission's Employee Bulletin recently listed the following rules for supervisors which, though not applicable to every situation; help give employees the above four fundamentals:

Put yourself in the other fellow's shoes. Lead, do not command, and earn rather than demand respect. Give clear and complete instructions, and credit, praise, and recognition when due. Always be fair. Delegate the necessary authority along with the responsibility. Handle grievances promptly and personally. Learn to know your employees and to take a personal interest in them. Develop tact and courtesy, integrity, and judgement. Remember that promises are debts unpaid; keep your promises. Be humble. And, one might add, do not endlessly evade or dawdle with problems; make relatively prompt decisions and go on with the next task instead of wasting time and destroying employee morale by being undecided and evasive.

## New publications are—

"A Telephone For Your Farm," PA-83, answering questions about the rural telephone loan program, from Rural Electrification Administration, and "Supplement for 1949 to Consumption of Food in the U. S., 1909-48," M. P. 691, from Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## Reply to mudslingers

DONALD S. DAWSON, Administrative Assistant to the President, addressing the Society for Personnel Administration October 24, denounced the detractors and mudslingers who seem to delight in tearing down the Federal Service. He quoted Chester Bowles, successful businessman, that persons of high caliber, from the highest paid to the lowest, worked for Government, and that the reputation for inefficiency, rigidity, and incompetence fastened upon them was the invention of demagogues. Said the President himself recently:

It would be an impossibility for anybody to fill a key position in the Government, such as Secretary of the Treasury, or Attorney General, or Secretary of Agriculture, or President of the United States, unless he had a loyal and efficient staff . . . In my opinion, there never was a time in the history of the Government when we had more loyal and more efficient employee than we have right at this day and time. Nobody is in a position to make that statement more firmly than I am.

Mr. Dawson continued:

I am sick and tired of the detraction of Government Service on the part of uninformed and prejudicial persons—and I am weary of the glorification of nongovernmental service simply because it is nongovernmental. Furthermore, I think it is about time that you, who are professional Government servants, do something about it. In other words, it is about time to take the offensive. Experience has proved and is proving every day that the Federal Civil Service is coming into its own as a career service.

Mr. Dawson drew attention to the fact that the Postmaster General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the Budget, and several assistant secretaries of departments, as well as deputy and assistant attorneys general are career men. In emphasizing the high quality of Government servants he mentioned USDA several times, and the forest-fire fighters, the forest rangers, and the chemists who worked on penicillin, specifically.



## More bull than frog

BELIEVE IT or not, no publication of the USDA is better known than one it never issued. Various referred to as "The Love Life (or Adventures) of the Bullfrog," it has proved durably popular now for nearly two decades. But don't send in and ask for it. WE HAVEN'T ANY! WE NEVER DID!

On January 6, 1932, the late Senator Pat Harrison made a speech in the Senate during which he not only deplored the terrible increase in the number of Federal Government employees from 420,000 in 1913 to 616,837 in 1932, but denounced the activities of many of them as useless—especially those who wrote, edited, and distributed publications. Then, prefacing his remarks by saying he would now refer to some pretty silly publications of the Department of Agriculture, he began to cite them by title. As he went along various other Senators laughed or asked facetious questions and Senator Harrison deviated perhaps unthinkingly into publications from Departments other than USDA. At one point Senator Harrison said:

Great Information they are getting out! Why, Mr. President, they even have one—I have not it here, but I read it with interest; it is one of the most fascinating and interesting pieces of literature that has come to my attention in years. It is on frogs. It told of the "love adventures of the American bullfrog." Before reading this romantic story of the frog I thought I knew something about frogs. When I was a boy I was their pal. I carry to this day living evidence of my close contact with them; but not until reading this bulletin did I realize some characteristics of the adventurous bullfrog. It told how courageous he was, and that as he and his fair Juliet sat in the sun rays upon some old log in a lonesome river, at the first approach of footsteps or noise the gentleman frog would jump off ahead to notify his fair lady that she must get out of danger also. It gave me the very refreshing information that the gentleman frog only croaks or sings when he is in love.

Here you have the origin of this mythical publication. At least it is mythical insofar as the USDA is concerned. Diligent search revealed that, in 1921, there had been printed for the Bureau of Fisheries, Department of Commerce, the annual report of the United States Commissioner of Fisheries for the fiscal year 1919. Appendix No. VI thereto was a 44-page article on "Frogs: Their Natural History and Utilization," that Prof. A. H. Wright, of Cornell, had been asked to prepare. This technical paper was included because of its scientific and commercial importance. It must have been the publication to which Senator Harrison alluded. No other has been found.

The newspapers that reported Senator

Harrison's speech pinned the publication to the USDA. In an article for Collier's, March 11, 1933, George Creel put in a safety pin. Nothing has ever stopped a trickle of demand for the fabulous publication, and every time it is mentioned publicly, that demand rises to incredible heights. For instance, Reader's Digest in its February 1948 issue picked up an item from the Book-of-the-Month Club News which quoted a "Congressman" as once having said that the USDA printed every last thing about nature *but* the life of the frog. Immediately requests rolled in by hundreds. To date all endeavors by the USDA to insist it has no publication on the love life of the bullfrog, and never did have, are in vain. Its mythical publication is better known than any of its real ones and, at times, it seems is almost more in demand!

## English as aired

"ENGLISH on the Air" was the title used by Rodney Gilbert for an article in the October 7 New York Herald Tribune exploring the faulty pronunciation and the abuse of words by the newscasting fraternity and their colleagues. Later letters commenting on this article were published. "Shambles" worried Mr. Gilbert when used to mean a pile of rubble. It apparently first meant a bench for the display of any merchandise, then a table for the display of butcher's merchandise, next the place of butchering animals, then a place of great bloodshed, and finally a scene of great destruction. Such extension or degeneration of meaning, as you please, is, however, very common. Mr. Gilbert also would confine "cohort" to its meaning as employed by Julius Caesar to designate a tenth part of a legion, or 500-600 men, and not for close pals or hangers-on, though Vergil, Horace, Ovid, and others used it in the latter sense.

The use of "loan" as a verb was deplored, the "loan" being that which is "lent." A physician expressed his aversion to "protagonist" used in lieu of "supporter," "pinch hitter" for "substitute," "diction" for "enunciation," "holocaust" for killing many people by any method, and "scribe" for "writer." Also mentioned was the fact that "alibi" is now rarely used in the sense of its "correct" meaning, while "hectic" has become synonymous with "excitable" and hardly ever means "consumptive" any more. This is an argument, of course, that could go on forever, and probably will. Have you anything to add?

## Women in USDA

IN AN EXTREMELY interesting and informative article entitled "Public Life Needs More Women," which gives a great deal of material about the women employed by the Federal Government, Ralph G. Martin (Tomorrow, 11 East Forty-fourth, New York City 17, for November) speaks of an anonymous Cabinet member—"Nobody" is absolutely sure which one—who supposedly said that "No woman could be worth more than \$1,200 a year." Well, it was J. Sterling Morton, appointed Secretary of Agriculture by President Cleveland; he served from March 7, 1893, until March 5, 1897. When he assumed office he seemed to think that about the best thing to do would be gradually shrink the USDA to nothing, thus saving money. The father of Arbor Day, he was a person of strong individualistic views who had been expelled from the University of Michigan as a youth for his independent thinking.

Morton's predecessor was a huge gentleman named Jeremiah M. Rusk, who had made his first success keeping a tavern, then went on to higher and nobler things to become a politician. While he filled the USDA with Civil War veterans, many of whom were barely able to get down to the office, his administration looked with disfavor upon the appointment of married women whose husbands had remunerative employment. Furthermore, female employees who married men also in Government service were expected to resign their positions in favor of other worthy persons. Morton not only began to clear the deck at once of Rusk's old comrades in arms, but he released all the women employees he could and demoted the remainder until only four of them exceeded \$1,200 a year, his ceiling for females. However, as time went on he found that many women workers were worth more than \$1,200 a year. Also the Department of Agriculture was much bigger when Morton left than when he took charge of it!

## Water resources

We have copies of a talk made at the fifth annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America by Chairman Morris Llewellyn Cooke (first head of Rural Electrification Administration), of the President's Water Resources Policy Commission. While entitled merely "On Water Resources," it contains a wealth of information about erosion, river and reservoir sediment, the preservation of natural resources, the so-called national water shortage, democracy, and the civic responsibilities of Government employees. It is informative and well worth reading and, if you want a copy, write the editor of USDA, and ask for it by title.



## FHA loans pay

WHEN A borrower secures a loan from Farmers Home Administration he has no other source of credit. That means he lacks collateral to negotiate a loan elsewhere, in or out of Government agencies, so the loan is essentially a character loan, but it is predicated on the borrower's agreement to follow sound farm and home practices under the direction of his local FHA supervisor. Yet, since 1945, FHA borrowers have met 98 percent of their payments and interest when or before due, and 28 percent of all farm-purchase loans have been paid in full in advance of their 40-year amortization period! The remaining loans average 2 years ahead in payments, and none of these people could get credit locally. What bank has a better record?

Looking back to 1933, which covers a lot of depression territory, FHA and its predecessors have loaned more than 1.5 billion dollars. Of each dollar loaned, 71.3 cents have been repaid, 22.8 cents are not yet due, and only 5.9 cents are in arrears. Meanwhile, 10.3 cents interest has been paid. In short, Uncle Sam is well in the black on this deal. Can you imagine a better record for a financial institution that demanded full collateral? Buy why is this so?

It is so largely because FHA supervisors go to each client's farm and assist the farmer and his wife to evolve a scientifically sound farm-and-home plan specifically tailored to their needs. The loan is contingent on that. The borrower obligates himself to take the good advice offered. Everything is looked into and considered in greatest detail, and the borrower's own neighbors are really the committee that finally decides about giving him the loan. When the plan is completed FHA issues a check to carry it out which is deposited in the local bank and drawn upon as required. The farm-and-home plan is written out and progress is regularly reported at meetings of clients.

What do these loans mean to the individual and the community? They mean the complete rehabilitation of the farm family, a far higher living and farm-production standard, greater conveniences, new educational possibilities, more efficient tools and equipment, more fertile acres, finer livestock, and improved social and economic living generally. To the community the loans mean more prosperous churches, more business done by stores that sell all the additional things a farmer wants when he is no longer indigent, more taxes paid for greater community services, the es-

## "Ag info in Europe"

WHILE THE first paragraph of the article of this title, in *USDA* for August 16, was in no sense intended to apply to each European country entire, and certainly Mr. Webster intended no such application, we feel, with M. Whalley Taylor, deputy agricultural attaché at the British Embassy, that it may have been ambiguous. However, no one brought this out until Mr. Taylor wrote November 1. One trouble is the old American custom of regarding Britain as something apart from Continental Europe, despite the fact that modern developments have tended to make it more and more an integral part thereof.

Needless to say, as Mr. Taylor writes, the Government employee in Great Britain and Northern Ireland is held in high esteem; his remuneration is as good as ours in the United States, and often better; he uses modern methods of transportation; and no British farmer is a peasant. Fortunately, no American reader of the article would have thought otherwise! Mr. Taylor also believes that the British have as effective a mechanism for the dissemination of agricultural information to the moderate and poor farmer as there is anywhere, though most of the extension services there tend to reach the best farmers, as a usual thing.

In the Cambridge area, one of 8 provincial centers in England and Wales, there is a provincial director and his deputy, also a bacteriologist, 4 soil chemists, 3 nutrition chemists, 1 analyst, 5 entomologists, 5 plant pathologists, 1 crop-husbandryman, 3 grassland specialists, 2 livestock specialists, 2 agricultural engineers, 1 milk-production expert, 2 poultry specialists, 4 horticulturists, 1 specialist in advisory aids, and 3 bee specialists, located where needed in the province. Other parts of Britain are equally well served. If anyone would like more details on the Agricultural Extension Service in England and Wales, or on British agricultural publications, feel free to address Mr. Taylor at the British Embassy. Our Associate Director of Information, R. L. Webster, reported most favorably on his British visit. His remarks in this interview mainly concerned Continental Europe.

establishment of new stores, businesses, and even banks, improvement in the schools, and better educated, happier farm youth who like to stay on the farm. Then does this program pay? Go back to the beginning and see!

## Stanley Andrews

THE WORK of Stanley Andrews, Director of the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, in contributing to the rebuilding of a war-torn world has won for him an official citation from the Department of the Army. He was presented with a decoration for exceptional Civilian Service by Secretary of the Army Frank Pace, Jr., at a ceremony in the Secretary's office in the Pentagon, October 26, and later honored at a luncheon attended by military and other national leaders.

The award was based upon services rendered by Mr. Andrews in 1948 and 1949, as Chief of the Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Group, Bipartite Control Office, United States and British occupation forces in Germany, and as Co-Chairman of the Food and Trade Mission of SCAP to South and Southeast Asia early in 1950. The official citation said that "his initiative and unusual knowledge of international agriculture were principal factors in ending famine in a critical period in Germany and in developing economic plans for an increasing degree of self-sufficiency in Japan, thereby reflecting great credit to the United States Government."

Mr. Andrews has been Director of FAR since July 1, 1949. He was a colonel in World War II, serving in the Army from 1943 to 1946, later becoming Chief of the Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Group of the Bipartite Control Office. From 1943 to 1944 he served as an Army planning advisor on food in North Africa, and assisted in reorganizing the Sicilian Department of Agriculture. He also was Chief of Forestry and Fisheries, Agricultural Division, Allied Control Commission for Italy, in 1944. In September 1944 he became Director of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, Fifth Army, holding this position until July 1945, when he was made Director of Production, and, later, Deputy Director for Food and Agriculture for the United States Zone of Germany. He was decorated with the United States Legion of Merit and the Crown of Italy.

From June 1940 to June 1941 Mr. Andrews was assistant to the President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, and for 2 years prior to entering the Army, general agent of the Farm Credit Administration in New Orleans. He is a native of Missouri and has lived many years in Arkansas, where he was a newspaperman, executive editor of a farm magazine, and owner and manager of a radio station.



## Market News

NOWHERE ELSE in the world does there exist such an efficient system for answering the producer's question of "What's doing on the markets today" as in the United States. The USDA Market News Service was started over 35 years ago. Although the first report was issued on strawberries at Hammond, La., it was only a short time before offices were opened at Chicago and New York. Since then, the Service has been extended to 106 year-round and 41 seasonal offices covering all the principal agricultural commodities. These offices, located in the producing and marketing centers, are connected by more than 11,000 miles of Government-leased wire for quick exchange of market reports.

Information is gathered daily by USDA market reporters who interview buyers, sellers, and others on the markets for prices, trends, information on supplies, and other data needed to provide producers and shippers with current information on the markets. A fruit and vegetable reporter may start work at 3:30 a. m. on the lower end of Manhattan and greet night clubbers on their way home as he goes to work. Or a reporter at shipping points in California, Texas, or Florida may start to work in the middle of the afternoon and continue until after 11 p. m., as most of the sales are made during those hours. Likewise, fruit and vegetable reporters may work in temperatures well above 100° in Imperial Valley, Calif., while others during the season may work in temperatures well below zero in Presque Isle, Maine. The same is true of livestock reporters who brave the hazards of weather and wild animals in the stockyards of South Texas where temperatures are high, or in St. Paul, Minn., where temperatures frequently go below zero.

After preliminary information is gathered by reporters on livestock markets, it is usually telephoned to USDA offices for immediate release to news outlets. Later the reporters return from the markets to their offices and prepare more detailed reports which are also furnished to press associations, newspapers, radio stations, and may later be released by mail. Nearly 1,400 radio stations and around 1,200 daily newspapers use these market reports regularly. With this information available to them, growers and shippers are on a more nearly equal bargaining basis with buyers. The Service is conducted by the Production and Marketing Administration. One phase of it covers fruits and vegetables, another

dairy and poultry products, livestock, grain, cotton, and tobacco. Recently, the Service has been extended to cover naval stores.

## Wakeland to Hoidale

CLAUDE WAKELAND has been relieved of his heavy administrative responsibilities at his own request for reasons of health, and has been succeeded by Paul A. Hoidale as leader of the Division of Grasshopper Control, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, with headquarters at Denver. Mr. Hoidale has hitherto been leader of the Bureau's Division of Mexican Fruitfly Control. From 1917 to 1927 he was with the Federal Horticultural Board on pink bollworm control in Texas, then transferred to the Bureau of Entomology to work on the Mexican fruitfly. Later he worked in Texas, Georgia, and Florida, and since 1931 has directed the Mexican fruitfly and eradication work from headquarters at Harlingen, Tex. This project is of prime importance to the citrus industry.

Dr. Wakeland is a graduate of Colorado A. & M. College with a Ph. D. from Ohio State, who began work as an entomologist with the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station in 1914. In 1920 he became extension entomologist with the University of Idaho, and in 1929 head of that University's department of entomology. He joined USDA in 1938 as a Mormon cricket project leader, and in 1942 was made leader of the newly created Division of Grasshopper Control. Upon relinquishing his administrative duties as division leader Dr. Wakeland will concern himself with the important task of collecting and evaluating information on the development and evolution of organized control and on the effects of parasites, diseases, and other natural control factors on grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, and chinch bugs.

## Bennett gold medal

A GOLD MEDAL has been cast in the likeness of Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, Chief of the Soil Conservation Service. It is to be awarded annually by the national conservation organization, The Friends of the Land, to the world's outstanding conservationist of the year. Dr. Bennett himself received the first "Hugh H. Bennett" gold medal on September 28 in New York City. The presentation address, by C. W. Bailey, president, First National Bank, Clarksville, Tenn., and formerly president of the American Bankers Association, is quoted below, because his words express so well what so

many of us in the Department feel about this man on the new medal:

Tonight we honor Hugh H. Bennett. We might do that in many ways, any one of which would be appropriate. As we view his accomplishments and his contribution to the betterment of every phase of farm life, as we think of how many have found greater inspiration, have seen a broader field of achievement revealed or have found a way to move out of the valley and take a better look at the world from some place high up on a hill, through his influence and guidance, we sincerely "write his faults in the sands of time, his virtues on tablets of love and memory."

We might build monuments or place markers in his honor, we might create bronze tablets to record his way of life, but . . . in this simple, earnest, sincere manner we record our esteem of Hugh H. Bennett, as we present to him this token of appreciation, tendered with a hope that he shall continue to share his talents with us through many of the years ahead.

## Botanical pilgrimage

JOHN A. STEVENSON, head of the Division of Mycology and Disease Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, reported recently some happenings at the World Botanical Congress in Sweden the past summer. This, the seventh congress, was the one that had been scheduled first to meet in 1940, but for obvious reasons didn't come off then. The delegates spent a day at Uppsala. They visited shrines of Linnaeus (1707-78), father of systematic botany, whose tomb is at the University of Uppsala. While at the university many of the botanists of Mr. Stevenson's branch of the science saw the herbarium collection of Dr. E. Fries, known as the father of mycology. For botanists this apparently was Father's Day.

The nomenclature section, the largest of 15, entertained 542 proposals for changes in the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature and held long sessions in considering them. English was the principal language of the Congress, whereas at the previous meetings it had been French. At this seventh meeting 61 percent of the papers were delivered in English; the others in German, French, and Italian. At the opening session the delegates were greeted by the famous Swedish botanist, Dr. Skottsberg, who addressed the guests in English, French, German, Spanish—and Swedish.

## Allen L. Colton dies

Allen L. Colton, a retired editor of the USDA, died the other day aged 93. A resident of Washington, D. C. for 59 years, where he died, he had retired in 1931, though he entered the Department in 1912, 2 years after the editor of *USDA*! He was a hot runner-up in a contest held last year to find the oldest living streetcar rider in Washington.



## Shade grass

TO GET GREEN grass growing in the shade often offers a problem. According to Dr. Fred V. Grau, who carries on research for the U. S. Golf Association in cooperation with USDA, the public asks more questions about this problem than about any other matter related to grass growing on the home grounds. Nearly everybody likes good shade trees and a good lawn and, in most cases, you just can't have both. The grass is in the middle with shade above and tree roots below to pinch it into extinction. But Dr. Grau nevertheless has a few suggestions for a way out of this dilemma.

In the South, St. Augustine grass will grow to the very bases of high and open shade trees. In the North, Chewing's or sheep's fescue will do quite well on well-drained soil even under shade trees. Roughstalk bluegrass (*Poa trivialis*) is good if it gets sufficient water. But it is just about impossible to establish good turf under Norway maples, because the shade is so dense and the feeder roots are so shallow. Don't sow grass in shady places in the spring, for about the time the seed sprout the tree leaves—well, it stays there—anyway, it becomes a strong competitor for moisture and light. Sow the grass in the fall when the trees are about to drop their leaves and because weeds and trees are then less vigorous competitors in shade or sun.

## 25 years ago

ON MARCH 5, 1925, William M. Jardine, now living in retirement in Kansas and then president of Kansas State, took office as Secretary of Agriculture to serve 4 years. The next year, the first hybrid-seed-corn concern was organized, a successful light tractor was developed, and the export-debenture plan was proposed. In 1927 the first McNary-Haugen bill was vetoed. During Secretary Jardine's term ominous agricultural conditions were somewhat masked by a spurious, specious, and highly specialized industrial and financial prosperity. But in his first annual report the Secretary expressed the feeling that conditions were improving, the wheat and cotton crops were large, and agricultural exports had increased.

Local agricultural credit organizations were proposed to remedy the bad farm credit situation, however, and overproduction menaced agriculture. Hence, the USDA was to give farmers all possible economic information, to set up a comprehensive system of standards and

grades for agricultural products, and to increase warehousing and terminal facilities so that stored crops would have a good status as collateral. The suggestion was made that crop carry-overs should regularly be thus stored to aid in adjusting production schedules. Efforts would also be made to increase farming efficiency and decrease unit costs without bringing new areas into cultivation.

The Purnell Act had been approved giving the experiment stations additional Federal funds. Pressure groups were demanding the establishment of agricultural credit corporations and an expansion of livestock grazing in the National Forests. Investigations were under way on high freight rates and farm taxes. The USDA was seeking to aid in the business organization, management, and operation of farm cooperatives. The Office of Personnel and Business Administration was established in 1925, furthering departmental integration. On June 30, 1925, the USDA had 20,500 employees, of whom 4,800 were in Washington, D. C., but its units were widely scattered in 40 different buildings and its housing problem was acute.

## Our Exhibits Service

WHEN YOU visit the larger fairs and livestock expositions throughout the Nation, and see extensive USDA exhibits, do you know how they got there? This is one of the oldest lines of work the USDA carries on. It really predated the Department. Today Exhibits Service, Office of Information, attends to our end of the matter, but host fairs also do their part, not only providing free space for such educational exhibits, but often paying the cost of labor and trucking to unload carload exhibits, installing them, then dismantling, repacking, and returning them to the car. The fairs also pay approximately two-thirds of the freight cost for getting the exhibits to the point of showing, and they provide free electric current and connections.

Furthermore, USDA agencies ably cooperate with Exhibits Service. The work is highly seasonal, the glut of demand being during August, September, and October, and Exhibits Service could not afford to maintain sufficient personnel to cope with the peak period. So the agencies, especially those with field forces, come nobly to the rescue by loaning qualified personnel stationed near the point of showing, and by absorbing part of the travel expenses. But what do we mean by "qualified"? It is a tribute to the versatility and resourcefulness of our employees, usually specialists in some

particular line, that they can step into a situation like this, manage the installation and dismantling of a group of complicated exhibits they have never seen before, answer questions by visitors, make emergency purchases and freight shipments, and even appear on radio programs!

How well they succeed is summed up in this extract from a letter received from the manager of a Midwestern fair:

Words cannot express my praise for Mr. Freyman and Mr. Hopper, for the manner in which they set up the USDA exhibits, and the very careful attention they gave them during Fair Week. Both men did a splendid job. To you I want to say thanks for making the exhibits possible. They were a hit at the fair and with our farm folks.

Top man in Exhibits Service is H. T. Baldwin.

## Chips for the Soil

IT MAY NOT be long before farmers will be putting those mountains of tree-tops and branches left from thinning and harvesting in the farm woods, and other "wood wastes" usually burned, back into the soil. They're not wastes, but potential organic materials badly needed by some of our eroded and starved land. The regional forestry division of Soil Conservation Service in the Northeastern States has been going rather deeply into this matter and they now come up with some facts well worth passing on.

Wood chips, sawdust, and shavings make an excellent mulch. Plowing wood into heavy soils improves their physical properties and increases infiltration rates. Adding wood to light, sandy soils imparts body and the ability to retain moisture. Nitrogen should be added when wood is being used as a mulch, because it is not at once available to the growing plants. For a 3-inch mulch, 5 pounds of sodium nitrate per mature apple tree, or 200 pounds per acre, should be sufficient. Sawdust hills in thousands of woodlands and piles of shavings now around wood-working mills ought to be spread over our agricultural land. Trimmings and chips from harvest cuttings in any woods can be run through one of the light portable chippers now on the market, machines that produce wood fragments sized for the mulch desired, or for animal bedding or litter to make manure mulch to put into the soil. It is estimated that bedding costs could be reduced at least 75 percent if wood chips were used instead of straw. And the conservation value of chips exceeds that of straw.

As an organic substance, wood can be used to maintain or increase the humic



content of soils. The high lignin content (28 percent on the average) of wood makes it a valuable soil organic supplement. When reclaiming old fields, woody plants should be plowed in, not burned. Brushlands, with more than 30 tons of woody stems per acre, are being cropped with potatoes or vegetables the same year the woody materials are disked in. Wood does not make soil acid nor have a toxic effect on plants. Organic acids are present temporarily but have little effect on plant growth. Woody manures are easy to handle. When spread on grassland they quickly sift down to the soil and provide protective values.

## "Take a letter"

BUSINESS and industry have already given vent to restrained wails that sufficient secretaries and stenographers cannot be found. The same affliction has hit Government, with the emergency no more advanced than at present. A Civil Service Commission spokesman has said lavishly we may need hundreds or even thousands, but private business and industry can't find them either. There is a woman-power shortage. Young girls taking clerical training find out they can get good jobs as soon as they can type well; why add another skill like stenography to well enough? Business schools can no longer fill the demand for fully trained stenographers.

It therefore seems about time for USDA to mention once again what it mentioned before during World War II. Why stenography? It is a neglect in our educational system that very young children are not taught how to make themselves articulate on run-of-the-mine subjects via typewriter. Penmanship was all very well in a slower nonmechanical age; so was old-fashioned stenography. But with typewriting and stenography machines available, why does anybody write ordinary business reports and communications in longhand or call Miss Hemstich and say "Take a letter"? Any supervisor should be able at any time to rough out a letter or a report on the typewriter rapidly and finally; any good typist in his pool or another could cope with it and make clean copy from it.

The anachronistic method of dictating letters to a stenographer should have gone out with longhand bookkeeping entries and letters. It is a great waste of time. Few persons can dictate well; few stenographers can make a well-organized grammatical letter out of the poorly dictated refuse they get to work with. The time of two persons is tied up while one hems and haws and the other twid-

dles her pencil and doodles. The end-product usually has to be corrected, often has to be rewritten. The cure for the stenographer shortage is for supervisors to rough letters and reports out on the typewriter—the kind they have to prepare personally anyway—and then any good typist in any good pool can carry on. Now have at us—that's us running for bomb shelter.

## Make up your mind

IT IS EASY to become a chronic complainer, the kind of employee whose name brings a sigh to supervisors' lips. It is even easy to become too aggressively ambitious and in hot pursuit of premature promotion. A person can slip into such habits almost unaware.

Work situations, like marital and other situations, should be viewed as wholes. Each has its advantages and its disadvantages. Some of the disadvantages may be temporary; others can never be eradicated. It is for you to make up your mind and decide whether the situation as a whole appeals to you sufficiently for you to keep it. In deciding to stick with a job you should at the same time dismiss its disadvantages to the outer limbo of your mind instead of spoiling the entire set-up by chronic complaints about what cannot be helped.

One exit from undesirable job situations is of course that of promotion. But if you have not been on the job long enough to merit promotion, or if the position is irrevocably set up at a definite grade, you can only cause irritation and promote ill-will for yourself by constantly insisting on advancement. On the other hand if you are a good sport, stick with the job and do it well under unfavorable circumstances, you can often pave your way to advancement later when change is in order.

But above all resist the impulse to become a chronic complainer, worrying both your supervisors and associates about aspects of your job which cannot at the time be altered. Make up your mind either to accept the situation as it is, cheerfully and uncomplainingly, or make a break for liberty. Transfer, resign, make an altogether fresh start; locate a new job. Then let us hope you do not find yourself at fault, but that you adjust in satisfactory manner to this new environment.

## Maine potatoes

Collier's for September 2 published an article called "The Great Potato Scandal." If you would like an information sheet answering questions raised by this article write the editor of USDA, and ask for "Facts About Maine Potatoes," No. 2572.

## Brief but important

### Duncan in Utah

Lyman Duncan, associate editor of the American Fork Citizen, is the new extension editor in Utah, succeeding John J. Stewart. He is a graduate of the University of Utah School of Journalism and also studied at Utah State.

### Naval stores research moves

Personnel engaged in naval stores research at our Southern Regional Research Laboratory in New Orleans have been moved to Olustee, Fla. This transfer has been made to house the entire Naval Stores Research Division of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry at one location closer to the center of the Pine Belt.

### New collaborator on cotton

Dr. Wayne A. Sisson, cellulose expert of the American Viscose Corp., has been appointed a collaborator of the Cotton Fiber Division, Southern Regional Research Laboratory, New Orleans. He is to serve a 4-year period. Study of the physical and chemical properties of cotton lint and other research here is providing basic information on the nature of cotton that should lead to its more efficient utilization through chemical modification and improved processing techniques.

### Rapid wheat test

A simple and rapid sedimentation test to measure the bread-making quality of wheat has been developed by specialists in the Grain Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, as a Research and Marketing Act project. Cooperating in the work were the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering and various cereal and flour-mill labs. The test measures both quality and quantity of wheat gluten. For more details write the editor of USDA, address bottom last column last page, and request No. 2579.

### William A. Baker promoted

William A. Baker, who for the past 7 years has been assistant leader of the Division of Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, has succeeded his former supervisor, Clyde M. Packard, retired, as its head. While he entered USDA in 1913, his continuous employment dates from 1920, since which time he has had wide field experience conducting investigations of insects that affect cereal and forage crops. A native of Massachusetts, and a graduate of the then Massachusetts Agricultural College, he was called to Washington in 1937.

### USDA DOCUMENTS

All USDA documents are in stock as follows: No. 1, Origin, Structure, and Functions of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, October 1, 1950; No. 2, Abridged List of Federal Laws Applicable to Agriculture, October 15, 1950; No. 3, Biographies of Persons in Charge of Federal Agricultural Work, 1836 to Date, June 2, 1948; No. 4, Condensed History of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, May 15, 1950; No. 5, Our Department Scientists—outstanding achievements of some of our earlier famous workers in natural science; No. 6, Important Recent Achievements of Department of Agriculture Scientists, October 1, 1950. Order by number. Send written orders to the editor of USDA. A convenient List of Documents which acts as an order blank is sent out in each letter from the USDA office.



## Oats for the Northwest

Overland and Cody, two new superior oat varieties for the Northwest, have been released. They were developed from a cross of Bannock with an unnamed selection from the Victoria-Richland cross by Franklin A. Coffman, of USDA, at Aberdeen, Idaho. Their smut and rust resistance is high.

## Stabilizing Great Plains farm income

A report called "Stabilizing Farm Income Against Crop Yield Fluctuations," of a Research and Marketing Act study made jointly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, is available from the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo.

## If interested in—

The record timber cut on the National Forests during the first quarter of fiscal year 1951, given in detail by regions, ask for No. 2601. If interested in what Dr. Lewis W. Erdman, bacteriologist at USDA's Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., has to say about better root-nodule-bacteria cultures for lespedezas, ask for No. 2605. Write the editor of *USDA*, name and address at end of last column, last page.

## Soybean study

Bureau of Agricultural Economics has released a study of Illinois-grown soybeans from the time the harvested beans left the farmer until they reached the processor. As about one-third of the Nation's soybean harvest comes from Illinois, this is an important publication in the field. Write or phone (Ext. 4407) BAE, to get copies of "Marketing Channels and Margins for Soybeans and Soybean Products in Illinois, October 1947-September 1949."

## Corn-crop allotments

To assist in assuring an abundant production of meat and livestock products, no marketing quotas will be in effect for the 1951 corn crop, and acreage allotments will be set high enough to provide a substantial increase in production. The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, requires acreage allotments for corn. If you want more details, write the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 2657. If interested in the feeding value of properly dried soft corn, request No. 2662.

## Dr. Shinn retires

Dr. Erwin H. Shinn, who has attended 4-H Club work in the Southern States from the offices of the Extension Service for about a decade, has retired. He devoted the past 30 years to agricultural education and extension work with young people. He joined USDA in 1918 as a specialist in agricultural education and was with the Office of Agricultural Instruction for several years. A native of Arkansas, he holds degrees from University of Arkansas, Oklahoma A. & M., and George Washington University.

## Smoking while you work

The British Medical Journal for September 30, while editorially discussing an article in the same issue that appears to demonstrate a close relationship between the smoking of cigarettes and lung cancer, remarked on subjects who smoked 40 cigarettes a day. Allowing 10 minutes per cigarette, they are really occupied with smoking for about 6½ hours daily. As the Journal said: "There are no days off, and therefore the heavy smoker smokes for about 46 hours a week. This almost amounts to an occupation." Nonsmokers sometimes wonder whether diligent and attentive cigarette smokers really let this other occupation interfere with their work to the extent of being unable actually to do as much in a day as nonsmokers.

## Facts on food

If interested in future food consumption in the U. S. and its probable costs (it will probably cost somewhat more than it does now, if that is any news to you) get National Food Situation released October 31 by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## More field house organs

Among other attractive house organs that showed up in reply to the request of the editor of *USDA* that you put him on the mailing list for your house organ are "The PCANFLA Highlights" and "The Farm Credit Messenger," both from St. Paul.

## Salute

The Atlanta Journal features "Salutes to Leaders in Georgia's Agricultural Agencies," and weekly articles describe the work of outstanding employees of USDA in that State. Farmers Home Administration Supervisors John Fluch, of Wilcox; Willie D. Hammack, Jr., of Randolph; and Daniel F. Driggers, of Teifair County, have been so honored so far.

## "How To Speak with Ease"

This is a small new book published by D. Van Nostrand, of New York City, at \$2. It is by Russell Conwell Ross, who has had phenomenal success as a trainer of effective public speakers for more than a decade. It aims to instruct in the kind of speaking executives, supervisors, and others in business, agriculture, and industry must do when called upon to address small or large groups. Our Library has a copy.

## Knowles Ryerson to Thailand

Knowles A. Ryerson who, prior to joining the staff of the University of California at Davis in 1937, served in USDA's Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction, is now acting as chief agricultural adviser to the head of the U. S. Special Technical and Economic Mission in Thailand. Now assistant dean of the University of California College of Agriculture, Ryerson is well-known among USDA, experiment station, and land-grant college people.

## In Forest Service

The cost of administering the 152 National Forests during fiscal year 1950 was virtually balanced by revenue from timber sales, grazing permits, and various land uses—costs \$33,837,145, revenue \$33,594,614. This includes fire protection. Receipts exceeded costs in 69 National Forests. \* \* \* Howard R. Jones, assistant chief engineer in the Washington office of FS, has been named regional engineer of the Northern Region, headquarters at Missoula, Mont., his birthplace. Mr. Jones studied at the Universities of Montana and of Washington, received his B. S. in civil engineering from the latter, worked for Bureau of Public Roads 1919-20, and entered the California region of FS in 1930. He now succeeds Fred Thieme.

## Those work hours of ours

Writes Maurice A. Downes, of Office of Information: "The article on 'Work hours' in *USDA* for October 25 ended prematurely for the newer personnel. To round it off Congress removed the Saturday half holiday by passage of the temporary war-pay resolution, and when President Roosevelt approved this he issued a memorandum to agency heads December 24, 1942, requesting a 6-day, 48-hour work week, with Christmas Day as the only holiday. Approval of the Federal Employees Pay Act, June 30, 1945, caused President Truman to send a memorandum to agency heads requesting a 40-hour work week, Monday to Friday only, which became effective July 1, 1945, and still governs our hours."

## Intern Program

The Twelfth Administrative Intern Program has been announced by the Civil Service Commission. For details on the nomination and selection of candidates and the supporting documents required call or write Henry F. Shepherd, Division of Training, Office of Personnel, Ext. 3185.

## Statutes affecting personnel

We have copies of a mimeographed compilation of "Statutes Affecting Personnel Administration in the USDA" which appeared the end of October from our Office of Personnel. If you would like a copy write the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, last page, and request by title.

## Point 4 set-up

The organization to administer Point 4 work will probably be called Technical Cooperation Administration, if it materializes, with offices for food and natural resources, health and education, and industry and public service. For details on the possibility of hiring agriculturists in Point 4 work consult Parke Haynes, Office of Personnel.

## Agriculture and defense

We have copies of the talk delivered by Secretary Brannan at the Outlook Conference, October 30, 1950. It is entitled "Agriculture and National Defense," and lays down a number of top policy lines in which you may be interested. For copies write the editor of *USDA*, address in bottom of the last column as usual, and request No. 2616.

## Plants and climate

"The Response of Plants to Climate," by F. W. Went, of the California Institute of Technology at Pasadena, the lead article in Science for October 27, is tremendously interesting. Involving a description of the air-conditioned and insectless Earhart Plant Research Laboratory, it deals with curious and interesting effects of temperature, light, and other climatic factors on plant growth.

## Cotton mechanization

J. M. Eleazer, of South Carolina, reports on cotton mechanization work at Clemson's Edisto Station. This pioneering project has been going on for some years. Full mechanization of cotton has cut the man-hours required to make and harvest a bale from 145 to a mere 25. In other words, a man with machines can do in 25 hours what it used to take him 145 hours to accomplish.

## Using wood waste

Some 66 million tons, dry weight, of sawdust, shavings, slabs, edgings, trimmings, and other byproducts of the wood industry remain unused each year, not to mention the igneous material that is a byproduct of wood-sugar plants and paper mills. Roy C. Dawson, project supervisor of SCS, in cooperation with the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, is seeking and finding uses for this wood waste.

## EPQ retirements

The following have recently retired from active service in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine: Philip Luginbill, Lafayette, Ind., with 40 years of service; Thomas R. Chamberlin, Madison, Wis., 37; Clyde M. Packard, Washington, D. C., 37; Walter O. Frost, Augusta, Maine, 33; James E. Riley, Jr., New Haven, Conn., 33; H. R. Painter, Ankeny, Iowa, 32; Adolph A. Staimach, Roma, Tex., 31; Thomas J. King, Concord, N. H., 30; Frederick J. Baker, Keene, N. H., 30; Frank X. LaRoche, Rutland, Vt., 28; and Trevor B. Heald, Huntington, N. Y., 27.



The first Federal Market News Service on turpentine and rosin started November 1 with W. B. Woodward, veteran USDA market reporter since 1930, in charge of headquarters at Savannah, Ga. This service is provided by Production and Marketing Administration.

## Gallantry

Lt. Col. Gilbert Check, well known in SCS where he worked with the Land Management Division before joining the Army, has been awarded the Army's Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry in action in Korea. Harold H. Martin gives more details in the Saturday Evening Post for September 9.

## Changes in Maryland

Dr. H. C. Byrd, president of the University of Maryland, has announced that Dr. G. M. Cairns, head of the department of dairy husbandry, will succeed Dr. T. B. Symonds, retired, as dean of the College of Agriculture. Dr. W. B. Kemp, director of the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station, assumes the additional duty of director of instruction, and Dr. Irvin C. Haut, head of the department of horticulture, becomes assistant director of the experiment station.

## Statistical publications of interest

"Foreign Agricultural Outlook, 1951 Charts," has been issued by, and is available from our Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Wall-size copies of the charts may be obtained also at 58 cents each, and photographic prints, dull or glossy, 8 by 10 inches, at 55 cents. \* \* \* The 1950 edition of "Crops and Markets," Volume 27, has been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, from which it may be procured.

## Trichinosis

We are unaccustomed to suggest that you look in the New Yorker magazine for information, but the November 18 issue contains a fascinating and accurate story about trichinosis headed "Annals of Medicine—A Pig from Jersey," that is well worth reading. The Bureau of Animal Industry has done much work that helps protect the American public from this insidious disease. The case described in the New Yorker should also make you more careful to avoid getting trichinosis.

## Littauer scholarship to Sasser

Joseph R. Sasser, assistant State conservationist for Florida, has been awarded a Littauer Scholarship by the Conservation Foundation providing for one year's study in the Graduate School of Public Administration at Harvard. Candidates are drawn from Government agencies administering programs for the conservation of natural resources. Mr. Sasser is now at Harvard on leave of absence. He has been with SCS since 1935, when the agency was established, except for 4 years with the Marine Corps during World War II. A native of Tennessee he has a B. S. A. from the University of that State. He transferred from SCS work in Tennessee to Gainesville, Fla., in 1949.

## Pay rises

Possibly you already knew that, while total personal income in August was reported by the Department of Commerce at a new high annual rate of 223.4 billion dollars, you got little of it. This was an increase of 19.1 billions over last August and, of that, 12.3 billion came from expansion in payrolls of private business—all industry and business except agriculture—of which 40 percent was attributable to greater employment, 20 percent to lengthened hours, and the remainder to advances in basic wage rates, job upgrading, employment shifts, and related factors. The total number of nonfarm employees rose 2 million between August 1949 and August 1950, to a peak of 44.9 million.

## A poet among us

Mary Forbes Smith, of the Office of Information, is author of a new book of poems, "The Alabaster Box." She suggests that we make this volume a book of escape, as she has done during 28½ years as a Federal Government employee. Procure it from the Story Book Press, 1435 Second Avenue, Dallas, Tex., at \$2.

## "The Educated Man"

This is the title of an article by Jacques Barzun that some of you may have seen in Life for October 16, 1950. Those who have not read it should do so. We intended to recommend it earlier. It is well written, thought provoking, powerful. It is worth hunting up in a library, but if you do that and feel cheated, write our complaint department for our deepest sympathy.

## "Water, Land, and People"

This is the title of a new Knopf book by Bernard Frank, of Forest Service, and Anthony Neiboy, a former FS employee. Described as a comprehensive but popular book on water problems, it not only gives the ecological background for an understanding of them, but analyzes methods for their solution. The authors advocate greater Federal Government programs in land restoration regulation of rural land use to stop watershed destruction, and an intensive educational campaign, and they give a novel analysis of TVA. The book is priced at \$4.

## Dr. Shepard transfers

Dr. Harold H. Shepard has transferred from the Insecticide Division. Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, to the Office of Materials and Facilities in the same agency, where he will have charge of requirements work on pesticides under the Defense Production Act. He took his Ph. D. at Massachusetts State College, taught there and at Minnesota a while, then came to the War Food Administration during World War II. He taught insect toxicology at Cornell after the war, but for the past few years has been in charge of the Entomological Section of his division.

## Thies returns

Wilbur H. Thies, Massachusetts extension horticulturist, recently returned from the French Zone of Occupation in Germany, where he served as a consultant on agricultural extension to a State Department mission. Janet L. Cameron, Virginia food and nutrition specialist, was also a member of the mission, and served as a consultant in the field of home economics extension. Following a detailed study of 105 days, recommendations were made for improvement of extension methods. Mr. Thies and Miss Cameron are the first extension workers from the U. S. assigned to the French Zone through the U. S. specialists program of the Department.

## One-man exhibit

W. R. Thompson, associate leader for extension agronomy, Mississippi State College, is a one-man exhibit. On October 26 he addressed the Secretary's staff meeting on "Grassland Farming in the South," and you know very well how dull and dry most of us would make such a subject. But, aided by homely props easily procured by anyone, and that peculiar quality of vitality which alone makes a writer or speaker worth while, he kept his audience fascinated for 45 minutes. They were ready to protest when he stopped. If he had time Thompson should be running a speaker's bureau, but possibly his pleasing humor and vital interest are not so infectious that they could be imparted even to eager students. Anyway, do hear him if you ever get the chance.

## FHA in Alaska

Farmers Home Administration Supervisor Anderson, who handles the FHA program in Alaska, encounters special problems of his own, such as lack of mail or phone service that could be used to communicate with borrowers. But Andy is ingenious. Recently he lined up the aid of the Anchorage station radio farm director. Now he puts out over the air some information he would otherwise impart via letters or the telephone and, if the borrower doesn't happen to hear the broadcast, one of his neighbors usually does and passes along the information.

## Texas citrus-fruit research

The USDA will expand its research on processing Texas citrus fruits, cooperating with the Texas Citrus Commission, the investigations to be carried on at the Fruit and Vegetable Products Laboratory in Weslaco. Work on certain related investigations will also be intensified. Efforts will be made to improve the processing of juice and concentrates from Texas-grown grapefruit, oranges, and tangelos, particular attention being given to methods that will retain the color of fresh pink and red grapefruit in processed single-strength and concentrated juices. The Bureaus of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry and Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering will handle our end of these cooperative projects.

## Palms

You talk about relatives! The palm family numbers 4,000 species. Palm oils are very important to all of us, too, as they are used in the manufacture of soap, cosmetics, tin cans, glycerine, hydraulic brake fluid, safety glass, synthetic rubber, candies, and bakery goods. Palms are second to grasses as useful plants. New Information Bulletin No. 22 is "Palm Trees in the United States," by Dr. Miriam L. Bomhard, of Forest Service. This 32-page illustrated booklet is the first USDA publication to bring together information on American palms from widely scattered sources; it features 12 of the 14 native palms that are either tall trees or become treelike. To get the publication send 15 cents (no stamps) to Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

## School Lunch Program

When the National School Lunch Program began 15 years ago it operated largely on Federal funds and served relatively few children. Today it is a national institution, brings hot nourishing noontime meals to 8,000,000 youngsters in 54,000 schools, and the States put up most of the money. Total costs for the 1949-50 year ran \$365,000,000; Federal contributions were 65 million in cash and 55 million in donated commodities; the States put up the remainder. Most of the food served was bought locally by schools which expended \$181,000,000. The Program is operated on a nonprofit basis, meals being served at low cost, or free of charge to children from low-income families. Hot lunches contribute greatly to the health, well-being, and mental acuity of students. Report cards, attendance, and health are all better; disciplinary problems are lessened.

## December 6, 1950 Vol. IX, No. 25

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# USDA

Employee News Bulletin

FOR DECEMBER 20, 1950

## First anniversary

THE FIRST anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration's telephone-lending program was October 28, and there was then assurance that 50,000 rural families will get new or improved telephone service as a result thereof. Farm telephone service had not only lagged in quantity for the past 30 years, but has declined in quality, right while farm efficiency otherwise gained tremendously. Many farmers had little hope for improvement until Congress authorized Federal financing and extension of rural telephone service by an act approved October 28, 1949. Two months later REA was distributing application forms, the first full approval of a loan being made February 24, 1950. This allocation went to the Florala Telephone Co., Florala, Ala.

On April 19, the first loan allocation went to a new cooperative, the Emery County Farmers Union Telephone Assn., Inc., Orangeville, Utah, to provide service in an eastern agricultural area of the State now virtually without telephones. The first REA telephone loan contract was signed August 12, with the Fredericksburg & Wilderness Telephone Co., Chancellor, Va., where the initial change-over to dial equipment was made under such financing. This modernized system went into operation September 20, with President Truman calling from the White House to talk with Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dickinson at their dairy farm.

By the close of the first year REA had docketed more than 600 telephone loan applications. More than 12 million dollars had been approved in 41 allocations to extend and improve telephone service on an area-coverage basis in rural areas of 21 states. Four loan contracts had been signed. REA is a lending agency authorized to make loans to commercial companies and co-ops for the extension and improvement of rural telephone service. The loans bear 2-percent interest and are repayable in 35 years, maximum. They cover 50 to 90 percent of the total value of the expanded system, the balance preferably coming from local individuals, to provide assurance of continuity of service and efficient management and control.

## World cotton

The International Cotton Advisory Committee says that there is enough cotton in the world to maintain consumption at last year's level, though increases in some countries may cause reductions elsewhere. For more details on this, contact the Committee, Room 4531 South Agriculture Building, USDA, or call Ext. 5765.

## In the field

THE OTHER DAY, while the editor sat in the office of Glen L. Ellison, livestock market news reporter for Production and Marketing Administration, at San Antonio, Tex., the secretary took a telephone call. It seemed quite involved and after it was over she remarked it was from a man who wanted to know how to ship a bird dog to Oklahoma and insisted that it was the duty of the USDA to tell him. She said such calls came in constantly. The other day it had been an irate citizen who demanded that some official come over to his place at once because one of their (PMA presumably) officials had condemned a lot of meat that was perfectly all right. Not only did she get roundly insulted, but she was told where to get off when she patiently explained that the city health department was the place to call, if anywhere.

The man knew different. He also knew he was right. He was something like the woman who called Mrs. Mary R. Jordan, home demonstration agent for Bexar County, Tex., in San Antonio, and demanded that she be told over the phone how to freeze several different kinds of food. She refused publications and each time Mrs. Jordan explained how to do the job on a certain food she insisted on detailing her own method at length. She wound up that her methods were better anyway, after driving Mrs. Jordan almost to distraction for an hour. Any kind of query from any kind of person in any kind of mood may come to any kind of employee of any kind of USDA office in the field, and they have to be courteous and helpful. We just don't know the irritations and riddles we miss working here safely in Washington, D. C., instead of in the field and, again let us say—three cheers for the field and its fine employees!

## Farm and nonfarm income

HOW DOES the farmer's income compare with the income of the nonfarmer? The average net income per person on farms from all sources in 1949 was \$765, only about 50 percent of the average of \$1,520 for the nonfarm population. And a comparison in terms of income per worker indicates a somewhat similar ratio. Income per farm worker averaged \$1,587, only 55 percent as large as the \$2,900 average received in wages by industrial workers. These dollar figures, however, do not tell the whole story. Much more research will have to be done, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, before a fully accurate comparison can be given in terms of standards of living of the two groups rather than in terms of mere dollar incomes.

Parity income for the farmer, as redefined by the Agricultural Act of 1949, is that gross income from agriculture which will provide the farm operator and his family with a standard of living equivalent to that enjoyed by nonfarm people. This new definition involves something more than a simple comparison of farm and nonfarm dollar incomes. Also involved are differences in purchasing power of the two groups: How much will a dollar buy for the farmer, of the things the farmer needs? And how does this compare with what the dollar would buy for the nonfarmer of the things the nonfarmer needs? Although more research will be required in order to obtain accurate comparisons, it is clear that the average farmer's income in 1949 was below the new parity; for no one contends that the dollar in the hands of the farmer is worth double what it is worth to the nonfarmer.

## CCC surplus stocks

If interested in the distribution of Commodity Credit Corporation surplus stocks under Section 416, Agricultural Act of 1949, up to November 8, write the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 2700.



## Good old Texas

A TRIP the editor made at his own expense to attend the thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Texas Editorial Association, of which he is an honorary member, enabled him to look in on USDA employees in San Antonio and Laredo all too briefly. Dr. H. F. Kern of the Bureau of Animal Industry proved very helpful in San Antonio by carting him around to meet Dr. R. V. Pilgrim and Dr. C. P. Callaway, also of BAI, and Glen L. Ellison, who handles livestock market news for Production and Marketing Administration at the San Antonio stockyards. Dr. Kern is an old-timer; his supervisor, Dr. E. L. Peck, was out of town.

We looked in on H. A. Cox, officer in charge for PMA's Fruit and Vegetable Branch in San Antonio, and on the very capable ACP secretary in Laredo, Webb County, Miss Lora Weltz, whose office was a little hard to find, but who knew her stuff. The district Farmers Home Administration supervisor for Bexar county, Claude M. Gatti, was out on business when we called but we chatted with Courtney Cage and Thelma Teltschik. Mr. Gatti has 13 county supervisors in his herd. We telephoned the office of the FHA county supervisor, Wesley H. Grote, and talked with his secretary, but did not find any FHA personnel in Laredo.

We called all too briefly on the Soil Conservation Service Work Unit in San Antonio and on the water- and soil-conserving plant nursery there. The work unit staffs the Alamo Soil Conservation District and William W. Byrd is in charge; David H. Foster is nursery manager. Both were out on business, but we spoke with George P. Rejona, the nursery clerk, who was most helpful. In Laredo, C. F. Eminger, who, with a staff of 3 other technicians, serves three districts, called on us. These are the Monte Mucho (much brush), Zapata (shoe), and Starr (named after a famous Texan) Soil Conservation Districts. Mr. Eminger proved to be a sincere, dedicated young man who knew well how to formulate and convey his message; he was justly proud to be in SCS and determined to see the range return here where the Texas longhorn got his start. The soil nutrients are still there; the soil is not eroded, because rainfall is light, but the grass must return to realize the high beef-producing potentialities of the area.

Dr. L. F. Curl, in charge of pink bollworm control work for the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, was

most informative and hospitable and took the editor around to see San Antonio. Among other things we saw those ingenious mobile machines EPQ has developed to separate the bollworms from the cotton trash and enable 3 men to cover a county in 10 days. Others interviewed were W. R. Sudduth of EPQ's domestic quarantine service and A. E. Cavanagh of the domestic quarantine for phoney peach disease and peach mosaic. In Laredo we called on J. B. R. Leary, who is in direct charge of EPQ's border plant quarantine work, and we talked with several inspectors on duty at the International Bridge.

A range conference was in progress while we were in Texas and many absentees were there, including county agents Roberts S. Tate for Bexar, at San Antonio, and H. L. Alsmeyer for Webb, at Laredo. However, we saw Assistant Agent Charles E. Sewell and Home Demonstration Agent Mrs. Mary R. Jordan in San Antonio, not to mention the well-informed, genial, and highly informative office secretary, Miss Louise M. Faber, who had outlived more county and home demonstration agents than she cared to admit, and who knew her stuff like a veteran. She remarked on those city farmers who called you up in the middle of the night to implore you to come at once and hold hands with their sick pecan tree! In Laredo we talked briefly with Home Demonstration Agent Ruby Power and Graciela Trevino, the office secretary.

In general, we found USDA going regularly to all offices, being well read, helpful, and useful, and often being indexed and filed as well. As usual we left with high appreciation of the intelligence, competence, and affability of our far-flung field employees. We only regret that we lack travel funds to see more of them, and we just can't afford to take many trips like this at our own expense!

## Production facts

BETWEEN the 1925-29 period and that of 1945-49, the population of the U. S. increased 19 percent, farm output for human use increased 40 percent, and production of livestock and crops and pasture about 25 percent. Gross farm production per man-hour kept pace with railroads and mining, as did cotton production with the rate in the cotton-goods industry; food-grain production considerably exceeded the production per man-hour for the baking and milling industries, and milk production per man-hour closely paced the man-hour production rate of the ice-cream industry.

Between 1925-29 and 1945-49 farm

output for human use increased most rapidly—73 percent—in the Pacific States where population increase also was highest, 82 percent. The South Atlantic States showed the greatest percentage increase in livestock production, the Pacific States in crops and pasture. Between these two periods oil-crop production in the U. S. increased 385 percent, that of the East North Central States actually rising 3.269 percent, and of the West South Central 758 percent. Cotton production for the Nation as a whole declined 21 percent, but increased 396 in the Pacific, 121 in the Mountain, and 75 percent in the West North Central States.

The egg production of the New England States rose 167 and the chicken production 239 percent; the chicken production of the South Atlantic States also rose 243 percent between these two periods. Potato production for the Nation rose only 23 percent, but the gain was 211 percent for the Pacific, 76 for the New England, and 75 for the Mountain States. Milk production went up 26 percent for the Nation as a whole, the greatest gains being 36 percent in the East North Central and 37 in the South Atlantic States. A 40-percent decline in production of potatoes was chalked up by the East North Central States and cotton production by the South Atlantic States showed a loss of the same percentage. (For more details see the lead articles in *Agricultural Situation* for November 1950, by Reuben N. Hecht and R. P. Christensen of BAE.)

## Brief but important

### Infertile cattle

A rather interesting documented editorial in the (British) *Lancet* for September 23 (pg. 402) is entitled "Infertility in Cattle," and deals with recent British work on the subject.

### Don't overcook that spinach

Overcooking not only destroys the appetizing green color of spinach, but breaks down the texture, ruins the flavor, and results in considerable loss in food value. Spinach should be cooked only in the water that clings to the leaves and only until the leaves are tender.

### Achievement Day

They held the third annual Achievement Day in Texas recently to give awards to 300 Texas farmers who had become landowners on the Farmers Home Administration program, the principal speaker being Speaker Sam Rayburn, introduced by Dillard B. Lassetter, FHA Administrator. Mr. Rayburn stressed soil conservation, derided the "sob brothers" and "sob sisters" who lamented constructive Government expenditures, observed that farm income was but 1.8 billion dollars in 1932 but 4 billions in 1949, and paid a stirring tribute to free America.



## "The Business Outlook"

For copies of this address delivered October 30 before the USDA annual Outlook Conference by Woodlief Thomas, economic adviser to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, write the editor of *USDA* and request by title.

## ACP handbooks

G. T. Scott, State PMA director for North Carolina, sends in copies of 3 of that State's county PMA office Handbooks of Conservation Practices, saying they have been printed for the past 3 years through cooperation of local merchants.

## Higginbotham

A. L. Higginbotham, who for 27 years has directed his time between teaching journalism, extension editing, and handling university news, has relinquished his duties as Nevada's extension editor to become chairman of the University department of journalism. He has been succeeded as extension editor by Gene F. Empey of Oregon, a graduate of Oregon State with a journalism degree from Iowa State.

## Cooperatives

Somewhat earlier we mentioned an article by Joseph G. Knapp, associate chief, Cooperative Research and Service Division, Farm Credit Administration, on Cooperatives and American Business. He embodied much more information along the same line in an address before the American Institute of Cooperation; we have a draft of the informative material used in this address. To get copies write the editor of *USDA*, and ask for "Cooperatives and American Business."

## James M. Huston

Mr. Huston, who has been in farm credit work since 1926, when he became a land bank appraiser, died October 20. A graduate in agriculture of the University of Missouri, he entered county extension work in that State in 1918. He rose rapidly after entering the land bank. In 1933-34 he was president of the St. Louis Production Credit Corporation. In 1948, he was brought into the Washington office of FCA as deputy land bank commissioner, returning to his position as vice president of the St. Louis Federal Land Bank in July 1949.

## Publications

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1730, "Rabbit Production," by George S. Templeton and Charles E. Kellogg of the Bureau of Animal Industry, was reissued slightly revised September 1950. \* \* \* "Use of Ethylene in Harvesting the Persian Walnut in California," by D. G. Sorber of the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, and M. H. Kimball of the California Agricultural Extension Service, is new Technical Bulletin No. 996. \* \* \* "Production of Manufactured Dairy Products, 1949," from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, is new processed Statistical Bulletin No. 93.

## Lash retired

Dr. Elmer Lash, inspector in charge of brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication for Bureau of Animal Industry at Olympia, Wash., has retired after 43 years of service beginning with meat inspection in BAI, 1907. A native of Missouri, he took his D. V. S. at Kansas City Veterinary College. In 1916, he was assigned to tick-eradication work in Florida and, in 1919, transferred to the Washington, D. C., office where he later became assistant head of the Tuberculosis Eradication Division. He was transferred to the State of Washington in 1947 at his own request. He is one of the few remaining charter members of the old TB force.

## Cotton research program

If interested in recommendations made by the Cotton and Cottonseed Advisory Committee for research in this field under the Research and Marketing Act, write the editor of *USDA*, and ask for No. 2747.

## Brucellosis

The third Inter-American Congress on Brucellosis met recently in Washington, D. C., with 150 delegates in attendance who concluded that education is of paramount importance in the control and eradication of this disease. The meeting lasted from November 6 to 10.

## Minnesota turns a century

The department of agriculture, University of Minnesota, recently celebrated its first 100 years of service to the State with many commemorative and other activities. The University was chartered in February 1851 by the Legislative Assembly, Territory of Minnesota. A colorful centennial booklet, "A Century of Leadership in Research," emphasizes an important phase of its activities.

## Juice on the farm

How is electricity used on the farm? For water heating, refrigeration, cooking, lighting, pumping water, running dairy and poultry equipment, also to operate such appliances as radios, television sets, irons, washing machines, toasters, pressure systems, tool grinders, vacuum cleaners, fans, clocks, food mixers, cream separators, poultry hovers, food freezers, pump jacks, hot plates, heating pads, welders, percolators, evaporating coolers, milking machines, electric fences, churns, milk coolers, and so on, and on.

## Bliss has come

Milton Bliss, radio program director for the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, has joined the staff of Radio and Television Service, Office of Information. He has been in radio work at Madison since 1935, was in the Army during World War II, and last year went to Korea on a special radio assignment under military orders. Oldsters will remember we drew Morse Salisbury—head of radio and Director of Information back there, and now directing information for the Atomic Energy Commission—from Wisconsin also.

## Paul L. Rapp retires

Paul L. Rapp, since 1942 assistant chief, Administrative Division, Farm Credit Administration, has retired after 30 years of Government service which began in the Bureau of Efficiency. He joined FCA June 1, 1933, worked first with the Planning Section, and later became chief of the Instructions Section. In addition to his official duties he has always been active in employee welfare activities like the Farm Credit Club and its library, the Employee Health Committee, the FCA Credit Union, and numerous campaigns for the War Fund, Red Cross, Savings Bonds, Community Chest, and so on. Quiet and studious, he made his influence widely felt.

## Language and communication

You better not miss the series of articles in *Fortune* which began in the September 1950, issue with "Is Anybody Listening?" and continued in November with "The Language of Business—It's not as good as it should be—but it's getting better." This will be followed later by an article on the writing of business and industrial information workers, the public relations staff, who must share the blame for the more ghastly aspects of "businessese" with the businessmen, as they helped invent this jargon. In the November article Dr. Rudolf Flesch and his "Art of Plain Talk" come in for some sharp adverse criticism for missing the important distinction between style and content and thus ignoring the fundamentals of language.

## Pasture renovation

If interested in how pasture renovation can boost feed-nutrient yields as much as 35 percent, based on work carried on at the Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Md., write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2798.

## Wool research program

If interested in the program of research under the Research and Marketing Act recommended by the Wool Advisory Committee, write the editor of *USDA*, name and address in last column, and request No. 2797.

## European cooperatives

The following are available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations (write in or phone Ext. 2427): Foreign Agriculture Report No. 39, "European Cooperatives as Markets for U. S. Farm Products," and No. 51, "Buying and Selling by Cooperatives in Europe."

## Two speeches by the Secretary

Under the title "Hope: An American Export," Secretary Brannan spoke before the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities in Washington, D. C., November 16, giving much interesting historical and other information on land policies, land reform, and technical collaboration with other nations. Under the title "Land and Liberty," he addressed the North Dakota Farmers Union on November 18, in a talk which contains top policy material that should be of interest to many of you. If you want copies write the editor of *USDA* and ask for No. 2757 or No. 2786, respectively.

## Travel regulations

Standard Form 150 is the designation for the revised booklet "Standardized Government Travel Regulations as Amended October 1, 1950," promulgated by the Bureau of the Budget. All amendments since 1942 have been incorporated in this revised edition, and some modifications have been made in the regulations. Many changes have been made designed to simplify use of the booklet. The new booklet will bring welcome relief to those travelers who have spent many uncertain moments thumbing through their out-of-date 1942 editions. A good traveling companion for the amended regulations is Form AD-55, Memorandum of Travel Expenses, recently revised by the Office of Budget and Finance in cooperation with agencies, which contains printed sheets for recording trip expenses and also provides space for brief trip notes. Ask your administrative service unit for copies of these forms.

## Field office reflections

A recent visit (on his own funds) to San Antonio and Laredo, Tex., again reminded the editor of the urgent need for having all USDA agencies listed together in the telephone books of cities and towns where there are field offices, and of keeping building directories and office-door letterings up to date. It is almost impossible to find some of the offices. Usually the county agent's office can name them all, and no one else. Too few employees have even a slight idea of what the other USDA agencies do. USDA clubs in these cities disbanded because they were so poorly attended even when meetings were held on official time, yet they help enormously in acquainting our employees about the functions of other agencies. In some cases work long ago put into AMS or PMA stood credited on aged building directory boards, and even on one office door, to Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Field offices should see to it that they are all listed together in local telephone books, that building directories and door lettering are current, and that they know enough about the functions of other agencies to direct queries intelligently.



## Jump Memorial Award

For information on details regarding the operation of and procedure to be followed in making nominations for the 1951 William A. Jump Memorial Award, contact the Office of the Director of Personnel, USDA.

## Dr. Bennett to Point 4

The President has named Dr. Henry Garland Bennett, president of Oklahoma A. & M. College, to be administrator of the Technical Cooperation Administration, Department of State. This gives him responsibility for the Point 4 Program.

## National Forest acreage burned

If you want pretty full details on acreages burned in the National Forests this year, and the burning was twice as great as last year, write the editor of *USDA*, address in bottom last column, last page as usual, and ask for No. 2706.

## Superior cottonseed meal

Our Southern Regional Research Laboratory at New Orleans announces that it has experimentally produced a new, improved, screw-press cottonseed meal which may be fed freely to hogs and chickens as well as to cattle; for more details write the editor of *USDA*, name and address bottom last column, last page, for No. 2697.

## Report on Valencia oranges

There is available from Bureau of Agricultural Economics a report entitled "Grove-to-Retail Margins for Florida Valencia Oranges Marketed in Fresh Form in Selected Cities, 1940-48." It was prepared by William C. Lilleholm of BAE on a Research and Marketing Act study carried on in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Chicago.

## New cranberries keep well

Storage tests of three improved cranberry varieties—Stevens, Wilcox, and Beckwith—indicate that they have unusually good keeping qualities. They are the first cranberries ever to result from fruit-breeding work, and they are not yet available to the public or to growers. Each is productive and has larger berries than the principal commercial varieties now grown in New Jersey and Massachusetts; they originated in cooperative research between USDA and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

## The outlook

The annual Agricultural Outlook Conference concluded, in brief, that: Most farmers will get higher incomes during 1951, but farm supplies, family living, and taxes will cost them more. Prices for most farm products will average above 1950 and, assuming normal weather, agricultural production will probably top anything in history, much of the expected increase coming from meat animals and cotton. Stronger consumer demand for farm products is anticipated as a result of enhanced business and industrial activity attributable to the defense program.

## Hansen's good job

Peter L. Hansen, agricultural economist in Bureau of Agricultural Economics, recently toured with 15 Danish farm-organization leaders. They went by bus, mainly through the Midwest visiting farms, farmers, farm organizations, co-ops, a State fair, and some Danish communities. The ECA gave Hansen high praise for acting as technical consultant, interpreter, and trip leader. His familiarity with both Danish and American agriculture enabled him to render signal service in informal discussions and in assisting his guests to integrate the several parts of their study.

## Periodicals seen

We find of interest the quarterly, "Farm & Home Research," from the Colorado A. & M. Experiment Station and "Farm Credit News & Views" from the Federal Land Bank and the Production Credit Corporation of Baltimore.

## Reducing transportation costs

"Coordinating Transportation Improves Marketing and Purchasing for Minnesota Cooperatives," reports a Research and Marketing Act study; if you want a copy ask Farm Credit Administration's Division of Information and Extension for Bulletin 57.

## Nuclear reactor at N. C. State

The first nuclear reactor not owned and operated by the Atomic Energy Commission will be built by the Consolidated University of North Carolina, using nuclear fuel loaned by AEC. It will be located on the campus of the North Carolina State College in Raleigh.

## Gwin succeeds Symons

Dr. James M. Gwin, who has been in charge of poultry marketing extension in University of Maryland's department of poultry husbandry, has succeeded Dr. T. B. Symons, retired, as Maryland's director of extension. He took his B. S. at University of Connecticut and his Ph. D. at Cornell. He received several military decorations during World War II.

## Hendee succeeds Thompson

Perry A. Thompson has retired as regional forester, California Region, after 35 years with Forest Service. Nationally known for his contributions to forest conservation, his career with FS dates from 1911; between 1939 and 1946 he was head of FS personnel and chief of its Division of Fire Control in Washington, D. C. He is succeeded by Clare W. Hendee, a native of Michigan and a graduate of Michigan State with a B. S. in forestry, who has been in charge of the Division of Recreation and Lands in Denver. He has been with FS since 1931.

## Forest quiz

What town in New England has owned a forest since 1710? When and where did Arbor Day originate? How many students were enrolled in forestry schools during the past year? (You may be as surprised as the editor was!) How many fishermen visited the National Forests in fiscal year 1950? (If each fisherman caught only one fish, it would still be quite a take!) Who said this: "We have received the world as an inheritance. None of us has a right to damage it, and everyone has the duty to leave it in an improved condition." For answers see the Annual Report of the Forest Service.

## Soybeans progress

Research and plant breeding are directly responsible for this season's record soybean crop from 14½ million acres, which put soybeans in fifth position in United States agriculture, this new crop being exceeded only by wheat, corn, cotton, and oats. Soybean acreage is now on a par with that of barley, and well ahead of grain sorghum, rye, and rice. Breeders have now developed varieties that yield 20 percent more than those grown a decade ago, an increased yield averaging about 3 bushels to the acre, or \$6 per acre increased return to the farmer. No wonder soybeans are increasingly popular. Heavy yields and improved oil content have been the main objectives of the breeders, as disease has not so far been serious with this crop, though already effective resistance to diseases that might become serious has been bred into new and better varieties. The superior kinds now being grown are a mere first cycle in improvement, however.

## Taylor attends Outlook

Dr. H. C. Taylor, one of its founders, attended the annual Outlook Conference held in late November.

## Science Foundation nominees

Dr. E. C. Stakman of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, President E. B. Fred of the University of Wisconsin, President G. D. Humphrey of the University of Wyoming, Vice President O. W. Hyman of the University of Tennessee, President F. A. Middlebush of the University of Missouri, and Dean A. A. Potter of engineering at Purdue were among the President's nominees for the commission to operate the National Science Foundation.

## Rubber triplet

Our scientists are closing in on leaf blight, which has long clouded profitable farm and plantation rubber growing in the American tropics, by developing a "three-component tree." Built up by base budding of seedlings with high-yielding strains from the Far East, it is later top-budded at a height of 6 feet with leaf blight-resistant material to form a resistant crown. If you want more details about this write the editor of the *USDA*, and ask for No. 2737.

## British agriculture

In 1938-39 British Government expenditures on agricultural research amounted to about \$1,300,000, in dollars of that day; in 1950-51 it is \$8,400,000 in present dollars. The Ministry of Agriculture is now actively setting up 13 experimental farms to try out new methods developed by research in a very practical way. British farmers are spending about 140 million dollars a year on new agricultural machinery, and more than five times as much is being supplied British farms now as before the war, the striking increase in farm production being largely attributable to mechanization. New types of machines now being bought freely are seed drills, fertilizers, green-crop loaders, potato planters, sugar-beet harvesters, combine threshers, milking machines, and hammer mills.

## Cheese it!

Cheese has a long history, its origin is buried in legend, and Arab horsemen have been said to have "discovered" it thousands of years B. C. It graced the banquet tables of the Caesars and occurs now in some 400 types which belong to 20 main varieties or groups. In 1949, our total output of all types except cottage cheese were 1,100 million pounds, of which 927 million was American cheddar. Cheddar gets its name from the village of Cheddar in Somersetshire, England, where it was first made about three centuries ago, though the modern process for its manufacture is relatively new. USDA home economists say that 5 ounces of American cheddar are about equal to 1 quart of milk in calcium, phosphorus, and protein content, and this cheese is rich in vitamin A, though low in iron. A half pound of cheddar will give you as much protein as a pound of meat containing bone and fat in moderation, and cheese is one of the most popular dietetic alternates for meat.

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